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IN-HOUSE PROBE

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NEARBY

Teachers not to be used for voter list revision

BENGALURU
Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has instructed the District Election Officers and Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all districts to appoint non-teaching staff, officers, and staff members working in various departments on priority basis for the task of revising the voters' list, instead of teachers. » PAGE 5

Centre blamed for fertilizer shortage

BENGALURU
Blaming the Centre's policy this year for the shortage of urea and DAP in the State, the Agriculture Department on Monday said that the supply of fertilizers had been reduced.

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Focus on mass inclusion, not exclusion, SC tells EC

EPIC, Aadhaar should be accepted as identity documents in the Bihar SIR exercise, court says; as the EC insists these documents can be easily forged, the court says any document can be falsified

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday pushed harder for the Election Commission (EC) to accept Aadhaar and the Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) as identity documents in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral list in Bihar, saying "mass inclusion" and not "en masse exclusion" should be the outcome of the exercise in the poll-bound State.

With three more days left for the publication of the draft electoral roll on August 1, the EC continued to resist the court's suggestion, saying Aadhaar, EPIC, and ration cards could be forged easily.

On July 10, the top court had asked the EC to consider these three documents to ward off the spectre of mass disenfranchisement even as petitioners, ranging from activists to political parties, called the SIR a "citizenship screening".

> According to you (EC), none of these 11 documents are conclusive. They are just documents to accompany the enumeration forms. So, if someone gives an Aadhaar card as proof of identity, why will you not evaluate the claim of the person to be in the electoral roll?
>
> **JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI**
> Supreme Court judge

Authenticity concern

"Any document on earth can be forged. Maybe one EPIC in a thousand may not be genuine. That can be taken up on a case-to-case basis," Justice Surya Kant, accompanied by Justice Joymalya Bagchi, addressed the poll body.

Justice Kant said Aadhaar and EPIC have a "presumption of correctness". Aadhaar has a system of being authenticated when in use. EPIC was issued by the EC itself.

"So, proceed with Aadhaar and EPIC... Include these two documents in the list of 11," Justice Kant said.

Justice Bagchi reasoned that none of the 11 'indicative' documents acceptable as proof of identity were of a conclusive nature, be it residence or caste certificates.

"According to you, none of these 11 documents are conclusive. They are just documents to accompany the enumeration forms. So, if someone gives an Aadhaar card as proof of identity, why will you not evaluate the claim of the person to be in the electoral roll?" Justice Bagchi questioned the EC's logic.

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PROTESTS IN PARLIAMENT
» PAGE 11

3 terrorists killed in Srinagar; Pahalgam links under scanner

Quick response: Army personnel rush towards the encounter site in Lidwas meadows in Srinagar, J&K, on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Three terrorists were killed in the Lidwas area of Srinagar during "Operation Mahadev" on Monday, the Army said. The likely role of these terrorists in the Pahalgam attack, which left 26 civilians dead on April 22, is being probed.

An Army spokesperson of the Chinar Corps said the terrorists engaged in intense firing during the operation in Lidwas, which is situated in the upper reaches of the Dachigam forest area and is surrounded by dense forests on two sides. "Three terrorists were neutralised," the Army said.

The bodies of the terrorists were recovered from the encounter spot.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Operation Sindoor will restart if need be: Rajnath

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday asserted that Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, was only "paused" and the military action will resume if Pakistan indulged in any fresh misadventure.

Opening the debate on Operation Sindoor in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Singh said that "decisive action has replaced dossiers" and new India can go to any extent to uproot terrorism. He said the idea behind the military strikes was not to start a war but to force the adversary to bend through demonstrative use of force.

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CONG. QUESTIONS LAPSES
» PAGE 11

TRUMP REPEATS CLAIM
» PAGE 14

Stampede: Suspension of 4 of 5 police officers revoked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Monday revoked the suspension of four of the five police officials, including that of former city Police Commissioner B. Dayananda. The suspension was ordered in the aftermath of the stampede at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, which resulted in the death of 11 persons on June 4. This comes days after the John Michael Cunha Commission report recommended "appropriate legal action" against the five officials.

The order revokes the suspension of Mr. Dayananda; former Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central), Shekar H.T.; former Assistant Commissioner of Police (Cubbon Park sub-division) C. Balakrishna, and Inspector (Cubbon Park) A.K. Girish.

The suspension of Vikash Kumar Vikash, former Additional Commissioner of Police (West), Bengaluru, who approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and got relief, is yet to be cancelled as the State government has challenged the order in High Court. Sources said that revocation of his suspension will also happen eventually after sorting out legal hurdles. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had on June 5 announced the suspension of the five police officials at a press conference, holding them responsible for lapses that led to stampede.

The Chief Minister had later, on multiple occasions, defended action against the officers, including that of the Bengaluru Police Commissioner, whose suspension was unprecedented.

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IIP growth slows down to 10-month low of 1.5% in June

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity slowed to a 10-month low of 1.5% in June, driven down by the mining sector and contractions in the electricity and primary goods sectors.

Data on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, showed the index last witnessed worse growth numbers in August 2024.

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Goals
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UIN: 512N390V01 • Plan No.: 911
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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Teenager Divya outlasts Humpy, emerges India's first women's World Cup winner

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Indian chess recorded yet another great moment on Monday, as Divya Deshmukh won the women's World Cup in the Georgian city of Batumi.

In the final, the 19-year-old defeated fellow-Indian Koneru Humpy in the tiebreakers.

While Humpy contesting the final wasn't much of a surprise – she is the World No. 5 and has been one of the best female players for the last couple of decades – not many would have anticipated Divya's stunning show. But, given her obvious talent and the way she has been playing for the past two years, it didn't come as a big surprise.

By winning the World Cup, one of the biggest events organised by the world chess governing body FIDE, Divya also achieved another significant milestone.

Grand finish: Divya Deshmukh prevailed in the tiebreakers to win the women's chess World Cup in Batumi, Georgia, on Monday. FIDE

India's 88th GM

She became India's 88th Grandmaster and is only the fourth Indian woman after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali to get that coveted title. Last year, Divya had won the World junior championship at Gandhinagar with a dominant display. She also played a key role in India's historic gold in the Chess Olympiad at Budapest. India was the top seed there, though.

At the World Cup, the Indian women exceeded expectations, with four of them making it to the quarterfinals.

Emulating Anand

Only one Indian had won the World Cup before: Viswanathan Anand in Hyderabad, 2002.

By reaching the final, Divya and Humpy also booked tickets for the Candidates tournament, the qualifying event for the World championship.

Last year, five Indians, – three men and two women – featured in the Candidates at Toronto.

D. Gukesh won the open event, and went on to become, at 18, the youngest World champion in history by dethroning Ding Liren in an exciting finale in Singapore.

GIRL WHO CAN BE THE QUEEN
» PAGE 15

In a delightful draw, a show of India's defiance

Gill's men batted for five sessions to eke out a hard-fought stalemate against England in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, but now that they go to The Oval with the series still alive, they will need to show more spunk with the ball to achieve parity in the five-Test joust

Vivek Krishnan

The fifth day of the fourth Test at Old Trafford began with Ben Stokes and Liam Dawson, perhaps England's two most likely bowlers to make breakthroughs on a worn surface devoid of pace, operating in harness in the endeavour to prise out the remaining eight Indian wickets for a win that would have sealed the series with a game to spare.

It ended with part-timers Harry Brook and Joe Root sending down an assortment of freebies, six Indian wickets still intact, to Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar in the hope that they promptly get to their hundreds and settle for a draw before the scheduled close.

If there is such a thing as a moral victory at the end of a drawn affair, this was certainly it for India. For much of the five days, it had been a distinct second as England amassed a colossal total of 669 in response to India's 358. And yet, by mounting 425 for four in its second innings and consuming as many as 143 overs, Shubman Gill and company go into the fifth and final Test at The Oval in London with a chance to level the series at 2-2.

The final stages of the proceedings, although slightly farcical with Brook lobbing up full tosses and half-trackers, would have delighted India all the more. It seemed to reveal, besides excessive self-righteous posturing from England's players, the petulance and frustration of the home side at the turn of events. At the start of the final hour of day five, in which a mandatory 15 overs are required to be bowled, the convention is that the two teams have the option of shaking hands and agreeing on a stalemate if no other result is thought to be possible.

But while Stokes was resigned to this reality at that stage and went up to the two batters with that offer after 138 overs of fruitless toil on the field, Jadeja and Washington, on 89 and 80 respectively, were well within their rights to continue batting for a bit longer in pursuit of individual milestones as reward for their hard grind. For Stokes' men to moan about it and pass snide remarks at the batters was frankly out of line.

That Jadeja and Washington went on to reach the three-figure mark was the cherry on top that India had fully deserved. To escape with a draw seemed a distant dream at the start of its second innings when it was staring at a deficit of 311 runs with more than five sessions left in the game. To exacerbate matters, Yashasvi Jaiswal and B. Sai Sudharsan were dismissed off successive deliveries in the very first over to reduce India to none for two. Not to forget that Rishabh Pant had a fractured foot that severely curtailed his involvement.

But what followed was a marvellous

manifestation of skill, defiance and discipline from first K.L. Rahul and Gill in a stand of 188 runs and then Jadeja and Washington in an unconquered 203-run alliance. Even by the standards that the Indian batters have set in this series, scoring more than 350 in the first innings of every Test so far, this was well beyond expectations. Unlike England's only other draw in the Bazball era when rain bailed out Australia at this very venue in 2023, no divine interventions were to come to India's rescue.

Although draws are supposedly detested by Stokes and his teammates, the value of denying the opponent a win in a Test it has dominated can be enormous in a long series such as this.

Sydney epic

Cast your mind back to India's spirited show of survival against Australia in the third Test in Sydney in January 2021. With the Aussies having made all the running to set an improbable fourth-innings target of 407, India had its back to the wall at 272 for five with more than 40 overs to negotiate for a draw. Worse still, Hanuma Vihari was hampered by a hamstring injury and R. Ashwin by a bad back for much of their innings. But both dug deep all the same and kept out a first-rate Australian attack for precisely 42.4 overs with pluck and perseverance. The feeling then, as it is now, was that India had inflicted a psychological blow on the adversary as a result, and it may have spilled over to the Gabba in the next Test where the visitors pulled off a sensational heist to clinch a storied series win.

India coach Gautam Gambhir, whose grit and tenacity as a player were defining characteristics, was understandably pleased with the marathon effort in Manchester.

"The way a lot of people had written us off in this Test, this is the foundation of the team. These are characters who are sitting in this dressing room and willing to fight for the country," Gambhir said to the media in the post-match formalities on Sunday. "They are going to learn a lot from what they did today. Because being under pressure and batting five sessions is never easy against an attack like England's. Coming out with a draw while losing only four wickets, you have to give it to the guys."

Gambhir certainly knows a thing or two about salvaging draws from dire situations. At McLean Park in Napier in 2009, India was trailing New Zealand by 314 runs when it was asked to follow on with more than two days left. In response came arguably Gambhir's greatest Test knock, churning out 137 off 436 balls after a mammoth 10 hours at the crease, as India racked up 476 for four in 180 overs.

Incidentally, England's head coach Brendon McCullum and assistant coach Jeetan Patel were in the opposition then as well.

The 43-year-old was reminded of his knock in the aftermath of this result, but his response was along expected lines. "I don't remember any knock of mine. That is all in the past. Honestly, nobody in this team is following or wants to follow anyone else. They want to make their own history," he stated grimly.

Learn the right lessons

As uplifting as this performance promises to be for India's morale going into the next Test starting Thursday, Gambhir and his coaching staff need to take lessons from the first three days of this game rather than the last two. Which is that the bowling unit fundamentally lacked the firepower to take 20 English wickets, and ended up putting India in a position where a draw was the only satisfactory outcome. Runs were leaked at 4.25 per over, and Gill seemed to lack confidence in the services of Anshul Kamboj and Shardul Thakur to give them more than a collective load of 29 overs out of a total of 157.1 overs.

Much will invariably ride on Jasprit Bumrah's availability. Although he has played in three of the four Tests that he had committed to before the series owing to workload management, India hasn't yet ruled out the pace spearhead with the series on the line.

"All the fast bowlers are fit," Gambhir said. "There are no injury concerns. No decision has been made on whether Bumrah will play or not. Ultimately, whoever plays, they will try and do the job for the country."

Irrespective of Bumrah's status, India must consider going against its recent propensity of prioritising batting depth over bowlers with wicket-taking ability. Particularly glaring over the last four Tests has been the omission of left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav. The 30-year-old, in his 13 Test appearances, has shown a knack for taking wickets with his guile and deception even on batting-friendly pitches, but has repeatedly missed out because he can't necessarily contribute lower-order runs.

With the surface at The Oval likely to be just as placid as the others through this series, Kuldeep ought to be considered instead of Shardul. It will mean three spinners in the playing XI, but Jadeja and Washington's bowling in this next Test should be secondary to their role with the willow in the top-seven.

Because for all the defiance that India's batters showed in the past couple of days, another moral victory will serve no purpose. India needs an actual win at The Oval.

THE GIST

If there is such a thing as a moral victory at the end of a drawn affair, this was certainly it for India. Shubman Gill and company go into the fifth and final Test at The Oval in London with a chance to level the series at 2-2

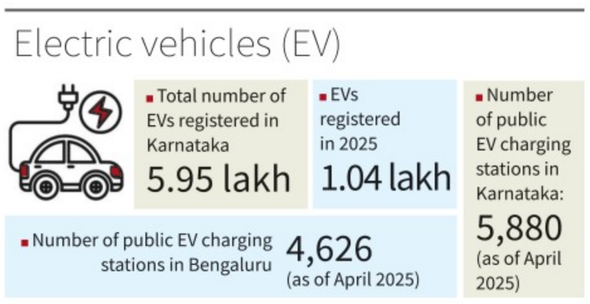
That Jadeja and Washington went on to reach the three-figure mark was the cherry on top that India had fully deserved

For all the defiance in the battle at Old Trafford, another moral victory in the fifth Test at The Oval will serve no purpose if India doesn't win

State govt. drops plan to set up 2,500 public EV charging stations

The ambitious project was announced in the 2024 - 25 State Budget. It is being dropped after not receiving positive response from EV stakeholders, says Bangalore Electricity Supply Company, the nodal agency for EV infrastructure

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU


Electric vehicles (EV)
Total number of EVs registered in Karnataka
5.95 lakh
EVs registered in 2025
1.04 lakh
Number of public EV charging stations in Karnataka:
5,880
(as of April 2025)
Number of public EV charging stations in Bengaluru
4,626
(as of April 2025)

Even as 1,04,415 new electric vehicles (EV) have come out on to the roads in Karnataka in 2025, the government has decided to drop its ambitious plan to set up 2,500 public EV charging stations across the State under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), which is the nodal agency for EV infrastructure in the State, stated that the project has been dropped after not receiving positive response from EV stakeholders.

In the Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for the year 2024-25, he had announced that 2,500 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations will be set up in the State under PPP model while 100 charging stations will be set up by escoms at a cost of ₹35 crore.

A government order passed in June this year said that the plan to set up these charging stations has been dropped after considering the explanation provided by the managing director of Bescom.

Shiva Shankara N., managing director, Bescom stated that failure to set up public charging stations previously deterred stakeholders from coming forward to set up new stations.

'No bidder'

"In 2023 -24, even though there was a government order to set up 585 charging stations under PPP in nine districts, even one station could not be established. In 2024-25, a tender was called to set up 605 EV charging stations in the remaining 22 districts. While no bid was received for 18 districts, there was a single bidder for the other four. However, other government departments did not cooperate with the agencies which were awarded the tender when it came to land leasing. It was not possible for Bescom to identify land where the agencies could set up stations according to their regulations," he explained.

He further said that with not many EVs operational on the roads, agencies would be financially burdened if they established charging stations.

Challenges

EV charging infrastructure providers said that they face many key challenges when it comes to setting up public charging stations.

Talking about the mismatch between demand and supply locations, Raghav Bharadwaj, CEO, Bolt.Earth, a provider of EV charging solutions said, "Most EV users—especially individual two-wheeler and four-wheeler owners—prefer to charge their vehicles where they already spend significant time, such as at home, office, cafes, or malls. Unfortunately, many government-allocated sites for charging (like bus depots, government land, or offices) are not aligned with natural user behavior or traffic flow, making them commercially unviable."

He also said that inter-departmental coordination between Bescom, BBMP, and traffic police, which is often slow and complex leads to companies not having access to high utility spaces like curbside parking spots and electric pole-based charging, where people already park their vehicles to sleep, work, eat, or play.

"Deploying chargers in low-traffic areas with no guaranteed demand is risky and capital-intensive. Private players are wary of investing without clarity on land usage, electricity connection timelines, or return on investment. The PPP model, as currently structured, does not de-risk or incentivise early private participation adequately," Mr. Bharadwaj further said.

Private players demand mandating charger integration into real estate development, creating awareness among citizens and incentivising infrastructure to encourage more EV charger usage.

Unreliable structure

EV users say that they are currently forced to charge the batteries of their vehicles at home as public infrastructure is unreliable.

"There are many apps which show where public chargers are located. But when I go there, they might be out of service, or the charger might not be compatible with my vehicle. The government should provide more reliable public chargers in the city similar to how there are many petrol pumps," said Aarathy Praveen, a regular EV user.

There are a total of 5.95 lakh EVs on road in Karnataka according to the data available with the Transport Department.

Currently, to cater to this demand, the government has directed Bescom to take necessary steps for escoms to set up 100 charging stations at a cost of ₹35 crore.

Allegations of forced resignations put TCS in the eye of the storm after layoff announcement

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The move has drawn strong reactions from several IT and ITeS unions. REUTERS

After Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) issued an internal circulation announcing plans to cut around 12,000 of its global workforce, employees of the IT major have expressed rage and anguish over the move.

The announcement comes close on the heels of a controversial "bench policy" announced by the company in June, which could translate to job loss for employees on the bench.

The move has drawn strong reactions from several IT and ITeS unions.

Multiple blows

Harpreet Singh Saluja, president at Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES), informed that the union has filed a formal complaint with the Ministry of Labour and Employment against the company and termed the layoffs "illegal."

"TCS has planned to terminate thousands of employees without giving them due notice or any prior intimation to the government, all of which are mandatory under existing Indian labour laws," read the letter addressing Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister for Labour and Employment, Government of India.

This is the third submission by the union against the company in one month, the first being against the "bench policy" and the second highlighting an indefinite delay from the company in onboarding more than 600 lateral hires.

> The union has filed a formal complaint with the Ministry of Labour and Employment against the company and termed the layoffs "illegal." This is the third submission by the union against the company in one month.
>
> **HARPREET SINGH SALUJA**
> President at Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate

Allegations

Allegations have also surfaced that TCS has been forcing mid-management employees on the bench to resign and threatening them with drastic measures such as blacklisting and holding back payments if they refused.

"Employees on the bench" refers to staff who are not assigned to a client project for the time being, but would remain on the company's payroll.

The newly implemented guidelines of TCS restrict the bench duration to 35 days a year. Employees and unions allege that this puts the onus on the workers to find projects.

Last two week

A mid-level employee at the company who wished to remain anonymous alleged that several hundred employees, primarily those on the bench, have been forced to resign from the Bengaluru office of the company in the last two weeks.

"People are promised a few months' pay if they are willing to resign. If they refuse, they are threatened with termination without any compensation. People are being scared into resignation by saying that the company will blacklist them and will not provide them with a relieving letter," the employee said

Employees anxious

According to the employee, the company has also started instructing managers to furnish information about a fixed number of 'non-critical' staff from each project.

"So far, the impression was that only those on the bench were in danger. With yesterday's circular, those working on projects have also become anxious," said the employee.

Mr. Saluja noted that affected employees from the company's offices in Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Hyderabad have also approached the union. "If the company terminates them on the basis of the bench policy, it can be challenged in court. But if it is shown that the employees resigned on their own accord, there are no chances for people to fight back," he said.

Saubhik Bhattacharya of All India IT & ITeS Employees' Union (AIITEU) alleged that forcing employees to resign would also help the company save severance packages.

Help desk set up

With concerns about massive retrenchments, unions including The Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU), AIITEU and NITES have setup help desk numbers for employees under duress.

"As per the Industrial Disputes Act, it is a punishable offence for an employer to compel an employee to resign. Every employee has the legal right to refuse to sign a forced resignation," said KITU which demanded immediate government intervention.

"As per labour laws, any company employing more than 100 workers must obtain prior permission from the government before carrying out any retrenchment," said the Union.

TCS didn't respond to *The Hindu's* request for a comment.

Actor Ramya lodges police complaint against Darshan fans

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Actor Ramya after filing complaint at the Police Commissioner's office in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Ramya, Kannada actor and former MP, on Monday lodged a complaint with the Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru, against alleged online harassment by fans of actor Darshan.

In her complaint, Ms. Ramya said that her sharing of news reports regarding Supreme Court proceedings in the murder case of Renukaswamy, in which Darshan is one of the accused persons, led to his fans sending "obnoxious" messages to her on social media.

"The disgruntled fans of actor Darshan have sent scandalous, ghastly and obnoxious messages to my Instagram handle through various accounts. The messages sent to me are so disgusting and misogynistic that I am unable to even reproduce the same in the complaint," she said in her complaint.

She produced the messages in the form of annexures and also provided a list of Instagram handles from which she had received the messages. She requested that stringent action be taken against the perpetrators and their Instagram handles should be taken down.

"Trolling female actors and abusing them have become common because people aren't speaking openly about it. Our self-respect and dignity are given importance in society, because, as women, that's how we have been raised. Most women fear character assassination. They are not comfortable putting out the abuses they receive. Had women had the courage in the past to take the legal route maybe we wouldn't have been facing such a serious situation today. That said, imagine the trauma women carry by facing constant abuse online," Ms. Ramya said.

Earlier in the day, the Karnataka State Commission for Women (KSCW) took cognisance of the recent online abuse directed at Ms. Ramya and wrote to the Police Commissioner to take appropriate action against those responsible.

Meanwhile, Film Industry for Rights and Equality , a non-profit organisation, wrote to Home Minister G. Parameshwara demanding action against those who are trolling and abusing Ms. Ramya online.

Police open fire and arrest prime accused in former GP member's murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kanakapura police on Monday opened fire and arrested a 45-year-old construction labourer who was allegedly involved in the murder of a former member of a gram panchayat, while he was having dinner at a dhaba in Sathanur on Saturday night.

The accused Srinivasa, a resident of Hongani Doddi, had a property dispute with a neighbour and the duo had filed a complaint and counter-complaint with the police. However, the deceased N. Nanjesh reportedly supported the latter, said the police.

Enraged, Srinivasa allegedly roped in his four associates and attacked Nanjesh while he was having dinner at the dhaba and hacked him to death.

Based on the CCTV camera footage, the police identified the accused and tracked down Srinivasa at a house in Gabbadi village where he had taken shelter.

The police team reached the area and warned Srinivasa to surrender and tried to arrest him. In a bid to escape, Srinivasa allegedly attacked constable Ramesh, following which inspector Ananthramu warned Srinivasa and opened fire to stop him from fleeing. The police also arrested the other four accused and took them into custody for further investigation.

Both the injured have been shifted to the hospital and are said to be out of danger.

Preserving frequencies of the past

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Uday Kalburgi is the proud owner of a one-of-its-kind Short-Wave Radio Museum, which houses over 180 tube/valve radios, some of them dating back to the 1920s. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Radios might be fading into oblivion, but they seem to be still singing in the hearts of a few who hold onto their love for the old electronic device.

Uday Kalburgi is the proud owner of a one-of-its-kind Short-Wave Radio Museum, which houses over 180 tube/valve radios, some of them dating back to the 1920s.

Mr. Kalburgi, a retired telecom engineer, fell in love with radios when he was nine years old. He dreamt of collecting radios and opening a museum, which he accomplished on February 13, 2021. Always in search of rare radios across the world, Mr. Kalburgi tries to restore them to their original glory.

"Each radio has its own story," he said as he opens up about his passion.

Preserving a habit

Mr. Kalburgi started the museum after being inspired by Pandu Rajan, a fellow radio lover and a conservator-restorer. "I loved listening to Omkar Prasad Nayyar's songs on my radio when I was a child. I still have some of the records and listen to them using the radiogram," says Mr. Rajan.

The 75-year-old has managed to restore several rare radios like BX 798X and BX 735A by Philips for his personal use. "Upgrading to newer tech is not really my cup of tea. I love listening and working on the old analogue radios," he noted, while not hiding his disappointment at people moving away from radios for television and other devices.

'Congress radio'

One of the rare exhibits at the museum is the 'Secret Congress radio', used by Usha Mehta during the Quit India Movement to spread the words of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi.

The museum also houses rare radios like the 'Globe', only 100 pieces of which were produced in the United Kingdom in 1946, Pilot G774B -USA made in 1936, Philips B6IF XX produced in Ireland in 1954 and many more.

"People like me who are in their 70s and 80s still affectionately listen to radio on a daily basis," he notes, while worrying that a generation which listens to songs on loop on music streaming apps might never get to experience the serendipitous joy of music discovery on radio.

Mr. Kalburgi however expresses annoyance with the presentation style of the young radio jockeys. "Listening to Akashvani is different. They are very matter of fact and practice what they have to say two to three days in advance," Mr. Kalburgi remarks.

Inspiring youngsters

In an attempt to cultivate the habit of radio listening among youngsters, Mr. Kalburgi sends invitations to schoolchildren and university students to visit the museum.

"I used to distribute pamphlets in front of schools and colleges. Students who are interested in radios will find this place very useful," he says.

What would be the future of the craft of radio restoration, though? Mr. Kalburgi is unsure. "There are still people who approach me to restore their radios. But thanks to AI and computers, interest among people has been reducing," he sighs.

(With inputs from Vaishnav G. Edappattu)

BASL opens O'Vetra lounge at Tiruchirappalli airport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Airport Services Limited (BASL) has opened O'Vetra, a new lounge at Tiruchirappalli International Airport which is built on the services associated with the 080 lounges at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru.

BASL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) which operates KIA.

Spanning 450 sq m in the domestic terminal and 620 sq. m in the international terminal the lounges can accommodate 107 guests in the domestic section and 150 in the international.

BIAL said that the seating layouts are tailored for both individual travellers and small groups.

Architecture

"Rooted in the cultural fabric of Tiruchirappalli, the lounge reflects the city's identity through design elements drawn from local art, architecture, and materials. A kolam-inspired reception wall welcomes guests with warmth and tradition. Soft blue flooring mirrors the flow of the Kaveri River, while handcrafted cane and bamboo chitai detailing adorns the ceiling. Terracotta textures and a calming beige palette pay homage to the Rock Fort Temple, blending local heritage with global appeal," BIAL said.

George Kuruvilla, Chief Executive Officer, BASL said, "At BASL, our vision has always been to craft lounges that go beyond function, spaces that reflect the soul of a region while elevating the travel experience. The launch of O'Vetra marks an exciting new chapter as we take this vision beyond Bengaluru for the very first time. This is not just an expansion of footprint, but a step toward shaping a new standard of hospitality that is thoughtful, rooted in culture, and consistently exceptional across the country."

BIAL said that the lounges are also fully equipped with PRM-compliant restrooms, ensuring inclusivity and ease of access for all passengers including those with reduced mobility.

India has the highest number of slum clusters in flood-prone areas

According to a new study, around 445 million people in the Global South live in areas that have already been exposed to floods; countries like India and Brazil also have a disproportionately high number of floodplain settlements, because the people who choose to live there lack viable options

Sandhya Ramesh

Aerial shot of a large slum in Bandra, a suburb in Mumbai. Both slum-dwellers and non-slum residents live in floodplains around the world, but for different reasons. GETTY IMAGES

Flooding events are a major hazard worldwide. According to a 2024 Moody's report, more than 2.3 billion people are exposed to flooding every year. In India, more than 600 million people are at risk of coastal or inland flooding. However, there is a lack of comprehensive data on vulnerable communities' flood exposure risk, especially in the Global South.

A new study has attempted to bridge exactly this gap by analysing satellite images of informal settlements or slum dwellings in 129 low- and middle-income countries and comparing them with maps of 343 well-documented large-scale floods.

The study found that India has the world's largest number of slum dwellers living in vulnerable settlements in floodplains – over 158 million, more than the population of Russia – with most of them concentrated in the naturally flood-prone delta of the Ganga river.

The largest concentrations and largest numbers of such people are in South Asian countries; northern India leads in absolute numbers, followed by Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Other notable 'hotspots' include Rwanda and its neighborhood, northern Morocco, and the coastal regions of Rio de Janeiro.

Overall, in the Global South, 33% of informal settlements, making up around 445 million people living in 908,077 households within 67,568 clusters, lie in areas that have already been exposed to floods. Countries like India and Brazil also have a disproportionately high number of floodplain settlements despite also having suffered many large floods.

The study, published in *Nature Cities* in July, highlights the lack of risk management strategies that prioritise vulnerable communities, including those that have already experienced floods, beyond population-level approaches.

Risk and settlement

The researchers classified human settlements as rural, suburban, and urban, and found that Latin America and the Caribbean had high rates of urbanisation (80%), and thus more than 60% of settlements were in urban areas. In contrast, Sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest rates of urbanisation and nearly 63% of informal settlements were rural. In Sierra Leone and Liberia, informal settlements hosted most of the population.

In India, at the time of the study, 40% of slum dwellers resided in urban and suburban areas.

People settle in, or are forced to settle in, floodplains due to a combination of factors including access to jobs, social vulnerability, and financial constraints. In India and Bangladesh, the low lying Gangetic delta and the large national population contribute to the numbers.

The study also highlighted inequities in access to resources and thus local responses to flooding. These vulnerable residents also suffer the loss of jobs and access to services among the indirect consequences of floods.

Exposed populations' vulnerability was found to depend on socioeconomic factors like education level and institutional factors like flood insurance.

The authors of the study wrote that both slum-dwellers and non-slum residents live in floodplains around the world, but for different reasons. In wealthier regions like Europe, subsidised flood insurance premiums in high risk areas promotes the desirability of floodplain areas like beachfronts and water views.

Infrastructure like levies also exist to protect people and houses. However, in the Global South, flood zones offer cheaper land and housing, pushing low income households into more vulnerable areas.

Data reveal that patterns of informal settlements also have a distinct bias towards settling in floodplains, with slum dwellers being 32% more likely to settle in a floodplain than outside due to lower costs, as evidenced in cities like Mumbai and Jakarta. In fact, the higher the risk of flood, the higher the chance of people settling there.

"In cities like Bengaluru, there definitely is a very strong correlation between informal settlements and their vulnerability to flood," Aysha Jennath, climate mobility researcher and post-doctoral fellow at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru, said.

"Flood-prone localities are not preferred by large builders for gated communities or IT parks, so those areas are available for migrant workers and informal settlements as they are cheaper."

Informal settlements in such urban areas are typically tin-sheet, tent or tarp housing, with rent paid to owners through land contractors.

> In cities like Bengaluru, there definitely is a very strong correlation between informal settlements and their vulnerability to floods
>
> **AYSHA JENNATH**
> CLIMATE MOBILITY RESEARCHER AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

SDG deadline looms

The researchers specified the need to act on flood vulnerability risk for poorer populations as the 2030 deadline for the United Nations' Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) nears. The goals number 17, including eliminating poverty and hunger, availing clean water and sanitation, and taking climate action. They apply to all the UN's member countries and focus on vulnerable communities.

The study also articulated the importance of taking a human-centric approach (instead of location-focused) to improve inadequate infrastructure.

Data show large concentrations of settlements in smaller areas, indicating gaps in housing, infrastructure, and basic services. Often, even gated communities gentrify flood-prone areas, pushing vulnerable communities to areas of higher risk exacerbated by failing infrastructure and lack of drainage, Jennath said.

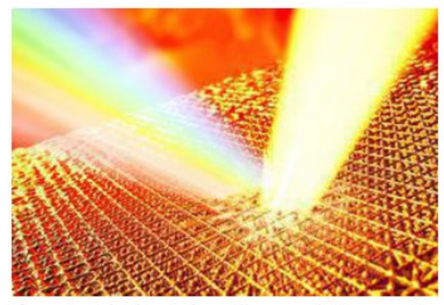
"Real estate plays a huge role in how these informal settlements come up."

Finally, the researchers also discussed the need for the government to collaborate with communities instead of banking only on traditional disaster preparedness. Skill improvement in areas like sanitation, waste management, and installing drainage systems could enhance the resilience to not just floods but also other risks like infectious disease, while providing jobs.

"These data-driven insights highlight the disproportionate flood exposure faced by slum dwellers in the Global South and underscore the need for just and equitable flood adaptation management," they wrote.

The findings are also a proof-of-concept for using machine learning, which can process large quantities of data, to analyse satellite imagery and extract nuanced insights, like socioeconomic data embedded in population densities. As a follow-up, the authors have said they plan to study timewise processes such as slum expansion, climate change, and human migration to effectively predict future flood risk.

(Sandhya Ramesh is a freelance science journalist. sndhyrmsh@gmail.com)



If a material is heated rapidly enough, it may not experience an entropy catastrophe. GREG STEWART/SLAC NATIONAL ACCELERATOR LABORATORY

Gold superheated far beyond its melting point can stay solid

Vasudevan Mukunth

When gold is heated really quickly, it remains solid at temperatures far above its melting point, a new study in *Nature* has found.

When an object is solid at or beyond its melting point, it's said to be superheated. Most materials can be superheated only in a short range after that point before melting. Scientists used to think this range was fixed because of the entropy catastrophe.

Previously, scientists thought that if you heated a crystal to about three-times its melting temperature, it wouldn't be able to stay a solid any more: it'd have to melt because its atoms would have become too disordered. In 1988, Hans-Jörg Fecht from Germany and William Johnson from the US reported that when a solid was superheated to around three-times its melting point, it would eventually possess more entropy than its liquid form beyond a particular temperature, which is impossible. This temperature was called T_{EC}, where EC stood for "entropy catastrophe."

This outcome is "catastrophic" because of the second law of thermodynamics. For two phases at the same temperature and pressure, the phase with higher entropy is (loosely speaking) the more disordered one. According to the law, the entropy of an isolated system can't spontaneously decrease – yet that is what the entropy of a solid being higher than that of a liquid implies.

The "catastrophe" is a warning that extrapolating to those problematic temperatures in the Fecht-Johnson experiment didn't enjoy thermodynamic legitimacy.

The new study with gold explores what happens when the metal is heated very quickly.

Understanding the limit of how much heat a solid can imbibe without changing its phase is important for engineers to design materials that work in extreme environments, such as on planets with brutal atmospheres.

Gold superheated to 14-times its melting point remained solid for a few trillionths of a second. X-ray patterns revealed the atoms were still in the ordered pattern typical of solid crystals

The researchers, from Germany, Italy, the UK, and the US, used powerful laser pulses to heat gold films about 50 nm thick. The pulses heated the gold rapidly, without giving it time to expand, disintegrate, or liquefy.

Then, a device produced and emitted streaks of X-ray radiation that struck the gold atoms and scattered off only a few picoseconds after they'd been heated. By measuring the changes in energies of those X-rays and the directions in which they emerged from the nanofilms, the team could deduce the films' temperature.

The team found that gold superheated to 14-times its melting point remained solid for a few trillionths of a second, a significantly long time in the microscopic realm. The X-ray patterns revealed the atoms were still arranged in the ordered pattern typical of solid crystals.

According to the researchers, the rapid heating could overtake the effects that came with heating more slowly. This isn't a gimmick but a signal that if a material is heated rapidly enough, there may not actually be an "entropy catastrophe." The ultrashort laser pulses made sure the gold atoms didn't have time to "relax" before the X-ray instrument came on, revealing the nanofilm to have been solid even at a temperature where melting was expected to be unavoidable.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Lands kept apart, or together, by a sliver

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
Name the narrow waterway that separates Europe from Asia and which has been central to trade and warfare for centuries. Once called the Hellespont, it connects the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean. Xerxes's army famously crossed it on a pontoon bridge in 480 BC, followed by Alexander the Great in 334 BC.

QUESTION 2
This 77-kilometre-long structure connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans via a narrow Central American land bridge, saving ships nearly 13,000 km of travel. Its construction reshaped global shipping routes and required a major effort to conquer both tropical disease and terrain. Name it.

QUESTION 3
This strait is only 3.8 km wide at its narrowest point. It separates a British overseas territory from the Spanish mainland, connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, and is home to a famous rock with mythic associations. Name the strait.

QUESTION 4
This narrow strait links the Crimean Peninsula to the Russian mainland and has been of strategic military interest since ancient times. It is also the site of a modern bridge that's often been in the news vis-à-vis Russia's war against Ukraine. Name the straight.

QUESTION 5
Often mistaken for a human-made structure, this natural feature is a slender land connection between two large landmasses, separating the Pacific Ocean from the Arctic ocean. During the Ice Age, it helped humans cross from the upper edges of Asia into North America. Name it.

Answers to July 22 quiz:
1. Mammals related to primates that glide between trees – **Ans: Flying lemurs**
2. South American rodents that spend a lot of time eating – **Ans: Guinea pigs**
3. Marsupial that often went by "Tasmanian tiger" – **Ans: Thylacine**
4. Common name for *Phrynosoma* lizards – **Ans: Horny toads**
5. Sea urchin named for its skeletons washed ashore – **Ans: Sand dollar**
Visual: **Whale shark**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Saifuddin Midda | Anmol Agrawal | Faisal Khan

Visual: Clockwise from top left, these are the cities of Auckland, Manila, Seattle, and Madison. What do they have in common in line with this quiz's theme? ELPINTO007, RALFF NESTOR NACOR, COLLEGE.LIBRARY

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

BBMP to issue notices to 3.75L property tax defaulters

As of January, 2.06 lakh property owners still owed tax and their arrears stood at ₹329.15 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city's civic body will issue notices to 3.75 lakh property tax defaulters, chief civic commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao said on Monday. These defaulters have tax arrears totalling to around ₹700 crore - ₹800 crore, he said.

These defaulters will be served notices through SMS and emails shortly, Mr. Rao said.

"If property owners have already paid the tax, they can ignore these messages. But if they are defaulters and not paid the tax, they should pay it up immediately," he said.

BBMP had collected a whopping ₹4,930 crore in property tax in 2024-25, over 25% more than its previous year, owing to One Time Settlement scheme. FILE PHOTO

He directed civic officials to take stern steps to recover tax dues from these defaulters. These include property tax defaulters for 2024-25 and those who did not even make use of the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme introduced by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2024, sources said.

BBMP had collected a whopping ₹4,930 crore in property tax in 2024-25, over 25% more than its previous year, owing to OTS scheme. However, as of January, 2025, 2.06 lakh property owners were still defaulters and their arrears added to ₹329.15 crore.

Following this, BBMP attached over 81,000 properties in 2024-25, highest ever in the city, and listed hundreds of such properties for auction in February, 2025.

Online portal to get 'A' khata in 15 days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Civic Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao announced that the civic body will launch a dedicated online portal where property owners can apply and get 'A' khata for their properties over the next 15 days.

The State Cabinet recently decided and later notified that plots with a 'B' khata adhering to six norms will be given 'A' khata in the city.

While apartment complexes with building bylaw violations will continue to have a 'B' khata, independent buildings with bylaw violations will be given 'A' khata, but the certificate will note the violations.

The State Cabinet recently decided and later notified that plots with a 'B' khata adhering to six norms will be given 'A' khata in the city. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Following this decision, there has been a rush among 'B' khata property owners approaching BBMP offices and even middlemen to get an 'A' khata for their property, sources said.

In light of this, Mr. Rao appealed to property owners to wait and neither approach BBMP offices nor any middlemen or pay any bribes for the same.

The State Cabinet recently decided and later notified that plots with a 'B' khata adhering to six norms will be given 'A' khata in the city

15 days

"We appeal to property owners to please wait. An online portal will be rolled out in another 15 days and once that is done, citizens can apply for 'B' khata to 'A' khata conversion or to get a fresh/new 'A' khata if they do not have any khata at present," Mr. Rao said in a statement on Monday.

442 dengue cases recorded so far this month in city; BBMP to launch campaign

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city has recorded a whopping 442 dengue cases in July till date and 69 cases just last week.

The number of dengue cases being reported in the city has seen a sharp uptick in July, when the monsoon rains began to lash the city.

The city has recorded 1,685 cases till date this year, over 26% of them recorded in just July.

Chief Civic Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao directed officials to conduct a survey in areas that have been reporting a higher number of dengue and take up a campaign to remove mosquitoes in such areas. "There is a need to take up a campaign of continuous fogging and spraying of pesticides to kill mosquitoes, identify larvae breeding sites and address them," he said.

BBMP Chief Commissioner has stressed on continuous fogging and spraying of pesticides to kill mosquitoes. K. MURALI KUMAR

BBMP will also soon take up a campaign to create awareness about dengue in the city. Mr. Rao directed officials to take up a door-to-door campaign where officials have to visit houses, create awareness about places where mosquitoes breed and how to clear them. He directed officials to rope in Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) and volunteers to carry out the door-to-door survey.

He directed officials to encourage households to install ovitraps to protect themselves from mosquitoes. Ovitrap is a device which mimics a breeding site for container breeding mosquitoes including those that spread dengue, but traps them in water there by preventing the spread of the disease.

Two drown in pond

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two persons, including a teenager, died after falling into a pond in Madanayakanahalli police station limits on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Dhan Raj, 14, and Prabhakar, 28, from Thimmenahalli in Bengaluru North taluk.

According to the police, Dhan Raj entered the pond to retrieve a cricket ball that fell into it. Since he could not swim, he began to drown. Prabhakar, who owned a tea stall nearby, saw Dhan Raj and jumped into the pond to rescue him. However, both drowned. The Fire and Emergency Services and police personnel were alerted.

Six persons arrested for honeytrapping 41-year-old techie to extort ₹2 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Yelahanka police on Monday arrested a gang of six for allegedly honeytrapping a 41-year-old private firm employee to extort ₹2 lakh from him on July 21.

The accused Raju Mane, 34; Sharanabasappa Baliger, 50; Abhishek, 19; Birbal Majjagi, 21; Shamsundar Pande, 20, and Sangeetha Sahni, 36, were arrested based on a complaint filed by the victim, a software engineer working with a prominent firm in Mahadevapura.

Met on dating app

According to the police, Sangeetha befriended the victim on a dating app a month ago and chatted before deciding to meet.

The duo met at a mall in Yelahanka and Sangeetha introduced herself as a single woman working as a business analyst at a private company and invited him home.

They went to her rented accommodation and while having liquor, a group of four men barged into the house. One among them claimed to be the owner of the house and accused them of indulging in illegal activities.

The accused checked Sangeetha's bag and pulled out a few sachets containing white powder, which the police said was baking soda.

The accused started shouting at the duo for possessing drugs and consuming it. They threatened to call police and file a complaint against the duo.

Sangeetha pleaded innocence, ran and locked herself inside the bathroom, crying that her life was ruined and she would end her life.

Negotiations

Meanwhile, the men began negotiating with the victim demanding ₹15 lakh to settle the matter. The amount was brought it down to ₹2 lakh and the victim borrowed part of the money from his friend and transferred it to a account mentioned by the accused.

The accused dropped the techie on a bike at an isolated place after he promised to arrange the rest of the money and transfer it to them.

The victim managed to reached home and discussed the matter with his friends who suggested that he approach the police after suspecting that something was amiss in the entire incident.

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused based on the money trail.

A probe revealed that Sharanabasappa is a habitual offender involved in a similar crime in 2023 in Puttenahalli police station limits.

Sangeetha used to work at a dance bar and ganged up with the accused to honeytrap people, the police said.

The police suspect that the accused might have cheated other people and investigation is on to ascertain their criminal background.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Science & Technology
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka
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Shri N.S. Boseraju, Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, unveiled the QIB 2025 brochure at the Curtain Raiser in the presence of esteemed dignitaries.
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10 two-wheelers destroyed, 2 vegetable shops damaged in fire

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 10 two-wheelers were destroyed and two vegetable shops were damaged in a fire incident reported at Halasuru market close to Someshawara temple in the wee hours of Monday. Neighbours noticed the fire and alerted the fire control around 3.30 a.m. Based on the complaint filed by one of the shopkeepers, the Halasuru police have taken up a case and are investigating.

The police are probing to ascertain the reason behind the blaze

The CCTV camera footage recovered from in and around the area found that three people wearing masks and helmet walked to the shop and splashed some chemical minutes before fire broke out. The police have taken up a case and are probing to ascertain the reason behind the fire.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Unclaimed deposits with banks at the end of June 2025

67,003 In rupee crore. As of June 30, 2025, public sector banks were saddled with unclaimed deposits of ₹58,330.26 crore while the private sector had ₹8,673.72 crore, as per the Reserve Bank of India. PTI

Number of helicopter accidents in the past five years in India

12 The government said these accidents killed 30 people in the last five years. Seven of them took place in Uttarakhand, four in Maharashtra and one in Chhattisgarh. The DGCA has initiated additional surveillance and safety audits of helicopter operations for the Chardham Yatra. PTI

Amount of food to be airdropped by Spain into Gaza

12 In tonnes. Spain said it would airdrop 12 tonnes of food into Gaza as the threat of famine stalks the Palestinian territory after 21 months of war. The operation is a rare example of a European nation joining West Asian countries in sending aid by air. The delivery would take place from Jordan. AFP

Projected increase in Italy's above-65 population in 2050

34.6 In per cent. Italy's working age population is set to shrink by more than a fifth over the next 25 years, national statistics agency Istat said. In the same period, the percentage of residents over the age of 65 is projected to rise at least by 10%. AFP

Number of digital payment transactions in the last six years

65,000 In crore. The Indian digital payment landscape witnessed over 65,000 crore transactions amounting to more than ₹12,000 lakh crore in the past six financial years. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

What is Maharashtra's new security Bill?

What does the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill entail? How does it propose to counter 'urban Naxals'? Which other States have similar laws? Which party opposed the Bill in the State's Legislative Assembly? What are the main objections being raised against the Bill by civil rights activists?

EXPLAINER

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

The story so far:

The Maharashtra Legislature passed the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill or a 'Bill to provide for effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of Left Wing Extremist organisations or similar organisations', during the recent monsoon session of the Maharashtra Assembly. The Bill has been termed as 'oppressive, ambiguous and open to misuse' by opposition leaders.

What is the Bill?

The Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill was brought in to counter 'urban Naxalism', as per the government of Maharashtra. The Bill states that, "the menace of Naxalism is not only limited to remote areas of the Naxal affected States but its presence is increasing in the urban areas also through the Naxal frontal organisations. The spread of active frontal organisations of the Naxal groups gives constant and effective support in terms of logistics and safe refuge to their armed cadres. The seized literature of Naxals shows 'safe houses' and 'urban dens' of the Maoist network in the cities of the State of Maharashtra." The Maharashtra government claims that the State has become a safe haven for 'urban Naxal' organisations. It has said that over 60 such organisations exist in Maharashtra, and that current laws are ineffective against them. However, civil rights activists say that the State government has not yet made public the list of these organisations, despite repeated requests. They have alleged that the Bill has been brought about to control left-wing organisations and civil rights activists who had rallied against the BJP in the 2024 Parliamentary elections.

New law: MLAs of the Maha Vikas Aghadi submit a memorandum to Maharashtra Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan to review the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill on July 18. ANI

What about other States?

Maharashtra is the fifth State after Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to enact a Public Security Act "for more effective prevention of unlawful activities of such organisations." The government has claimed that the other States have banned 48 frontal organisations under similar laws. But civil rights activists contend that the Public Security Acts in other States were brought in before the promulgation of more stringent pieces of legislation like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. They said that the Maharashtra government itself has claimed to have curbed left-wing armed extremists to only two districts of the State, with the help of currently existing laws, thus questioning the need for such a stringent Act at this time.

When was the Bill introduced?

The Bill was first introduced by the earlier Mahayuti government at the fag end of the monsoon session of Maharashtra Assembly in 2024. The State elections were held thereafter, and the BJP came back to power along with its allies with a thumping majority. The new government revived the Bill and introduced it during the winter session of the Maharashtra Assembly on December 20, 2024. A day later, a joint committee of members from both the Houses was formed to scrutinise the Bill. The committee received over 12,500 suggestions and objections but made only three amendments to the draft Bill. The activists have called the three changes 'minor'. After being cleared by the joint committee, the Bill was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on July 10. Only the Communist Party of India (Marxist) opposed the Bill. Other opposition parties raised objections, but did not oppose the Bill, which was passed by a majority by a voice vote. Two delegations have since met the Governor requesting him to not sign the Bill and send it back to the Legislature instead.

What are the objections to the Bill?

The opposition has said that the Bill empowers the government to declare organisations 'illegal' without due process; allows suppression of facts in 'public interest'; allows the government to extend ban on an organisation without any limit on the duration; has the potential to criminalise regular opposition under an ambiguous definition of 'illegal activity'; excludes lower courts from jurisdiction, effectively closing off easy judicial remedies; provides full protection to State officials acting in 'good faith'; and creates grounds for ideologically motivated action against opposition groups, activists and movements. The government has said that democratic and peaceful protests as well as journalists will not come under the Bill's ambit, but the ambiguity in the Bill has given rise to fear that it might be used against farmers' organisations, students' groups, and civil rights groups under the label of 'threat to public order'.

For example, Section 2(f) of the Bill criminalises speech (spoken or written), signs, gestures or visual representations which 'tend to interfere' with public order or 'cause concern'. The opposition has said that such a provision allows authorities to criminalise expression, assembly, criticism, ridicule and association merely by indicating that they pose a potential threat. There is no requirement of actual violence, immediate harm or intent.

What next?

The Bill will become a law once the Governor gives his assent to it. It has been passed by both the Houses and has been sent to him. Meanwhile, civil rights activists and political parties have said they will continue to protest against the Bill and will approach the court against it.

THE GIST

- The Bill was first introduced by the earlier Mahayuti government at the fag end of the monsoon session of the Maharashtra Assembly in 2024.
- The Bill states that, "the menace of Naxalism is not only limited to remote areas of the Naxal affected States but its presence is increasing in the urban areas also through the Naxal frontal organisations".
- Section 2(f) of the Bill criminalises speech (spoken or written), signs, gestures or visual representations which 'tend to interfere' with public order or 'cause concern'. The opposition has said that such a provision allows authorities to criminalise expression, assembly, criticism, ridicule and association merely by indicating that they pose a potential threat.

Why were Tablighi Jamaat members given a clean chit?

How was the media used to spread misinformation about the *jod* organised by Tablighi Jamaat members?

Ziya Us Salam

The story so far:

The Delhi High Court last week acquitted all 70 Tablighi Jamaat members accused of housing foreign participants of a congregation during the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 in violation of lockdown protocol. The court ruling came in the *Mohammed Anwar versus State of NCT of Delhi* case.

What happened in March 2020?

The Tablighi Jamaat members, who came in for heavy criticism in media and political circles for attending a *jod* (religious congregation) in Nizamuddin Markaz (Jamaat's headquarters in New Delhi), were given a clean chit by Justice Neena Bansal Krishna who noted that the said *jod* was planned before COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). Incidentally, the *jod* which began on March 12, 2020 concluded on March 15, a day before the Delhi government capped all religious gatherings above the size of 50 and imposed the Delhi Epidemic Diseases, COVID Regulations-2020. Earlier, on March 13, 2020, the Union Health Ministry had stated that the coronavirus was not a national health emergency as there were only 81 cases in India at that time. It all changed after the imposition of the lockdown on March 24 at midnight. While most Indian participants had dispersed by then, foreign nationals were still at the Jamaat headquarters, awaiting resumption of international flights to their respective destinations. The congregation included participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Kuwait, Ghana and Sri Lanka.

However, soon after the imposition of the nationwide lockdown, the Delhi Police had filed FIRs against hundreds of Indian and foreign participants of the Tablighi Jamaat congregation for allegedly violating the lockdown and orders prohibiting the assembly of people. The men were booked under provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Disaster Management Act and the Foreigners Act. These FIRS accused Indian nationals of either hosting foreigners in mosques or accommodating them at their homes. They were challenged before the High Court which dismissed them last week, a little over five years after the incident.

What did the court state?

"There is nothing on record to show that they had congregated after the promulgation of the Notification under Section 144 Criminal Penal Code. These petitioners were already present in the Markaz. After the imposition of the lockdown, there was no way possible for them to have dispersed; rather their stepping out of the houses would have been a violation of the complete lockdown and also of the potential of spreading of communicable disease of COVID-19," the court stated.

The court also noted that the imposition of Section 144 banning large gatherings was not announced through a gazette notification nor was it properly published. Hence, the Tablighi Jamaat preachers were possibly unaware of such a notification. "There is no averment to show that any information was actually conveyed to the petitioners," the court stated. It also observed there was no whisper in the chargesheets that the accused were COVID-positive or had defied the government order by stepping out during the pandemic.

Incidentally, eight foreign participants had been acquitted back in August 2020 by the south-east districts court in Saket, New Delhi. Later in December, 36 more foreign participants were acquitted.

What was the media's role?

A large section of the media had then accused the Tablighi Jamaat volunteers of being the principal reason for the spread of the disease in the country. Terms like Corona Jehad, Islamic Insurrection and Corona Terrorism were loosely bandied about and many fake videos were shared accusing the Tablighi members of spitting on food to spread the disease. The Delhi government, in its daily medical dispatches, used to have a separate column for Tablighi Jamaat COVID cases.

THE GIST

- The *jod* which began on March 12, 2020 concluded on March 15, a day before the Delhi government capped all religious gatherings above the size of 50 and imposed the Delhi Epidemic Diseases, COVID Regulations-2020.
- A large section of the media had accused the Tablighi Jamaat volunteers of being the principal reason for the spread of the disease in the country.
- The court noted that the imposition of Section 144 banning large gatherings was not announced through a gazette notification nor was it properly published.

Government of Karnataka
(TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT)
Office of the Commissioner for Transport & Road Safety,
1st Floor, 'A' Block, TTMC Building, Shanthinagar,
Bengaluru-560027. Ph: 080-22276433 e-mail: jcteeg-tran-ka@nic.in

No.CT/Env & e-Gov/PR-03/2025-26(B) Dated: 28-07-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tender No.TD/2025-26/IND0003, dated:28-07-2025

Tenders are invited from interested bidders / service providers through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) for the implementation of the project for installing grid interactive 400 kW rooftop solar power plants in Regional / Assistant Regional Transport Offices having their own buildings. For more details, please visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/).

Last date for submission of Bids :- 27-08-2025 upto 05.00 pm.

Sd/-
Additional Commissioner for Transport (Environment & e-Governance), Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2072/AKAR/2025-26

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · the hindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of the General Public, that **Smt. Geetha V.M.,** aged about 39 years, w/o. Suresh B, R/at No. 22, 18th Main, 2nd Cross, Deepanjali Nagar, Near Metro Station, BANGALORE – 560 026, is the full & absolute owner of the Property bearing No. 35/A, Khatha No. 237/42/35A, which is morefully described in the schedule below, having purchased from Lakshmi, under Sale Deed dated 11/06/2021 registered as Document No. NGB-1-00822/2021-22 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. NGBD 937 in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar (Nagarabhavi), Bangalore

It is further notified to the General Public that the earlier Sale Deed dated 26/06/2013, executed by K. Suresh Kumar in favour of Lakshmi, registered as Document No. NGB-1-02569/2013-14 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. NGBD 247 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore, was lost/missing. A Police complaint in this regard was also lodged with the Jurisdictional Police/Bangalore City vide Lost **Report No. 0410012/2022 dated 09/12/2022.** It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, they are requested to hand over the same to the below-mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.

It is also notified that **Geetha V.M**. is intending to avail from LIC Housing Finance Ltd., by taking over the loan facility availed from M/s. Canfin Homes Ltd.,

The General Public are hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s based on the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against Geetha V.M., nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing **Site No. 35A** Khatha No. 237/42/35A, Block 61, Assessment No. 42, situated at **MALLATHAHALLI VILLAGE, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring East to West **40 feet,** North to South **30 feet,** totally measuring **1200 square feet** and bounded on: -

East by : Road; West by : Site No. 75C; North by : Site No. 35B; & South by : Site No. 35:

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070
Dated : 29/07/2025 Place : Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. RAJESH BABU ARJUN,** aged about 41 years, Son of Sri. C.M. Arjun, residing at No.14 A, 1st Cross, Anandnagar, Bangalore North, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560032, intends to purchase the below mentioned property from **Mrs. NEELAM SHARMA,** aged about 37 years, Daughter of Late. Rameshwar Sharma and Wife of Mr.Luvkush Sharma, residing at No.13 & 14, 2nd Cross, SSA Road, Cholanayakanahalli, R.T.Nagar Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560032.

Any person/s, Banks/Financial institutions or any other authority concerned having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest or objection in to or upon the Schedule Property and its else may intimate the same in writing supported by documentary evidence to the undersigned within TEN DAYS from the date of publication hereof, failing which all rights or claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and any client will proceed with the conveyance and obtain the Deed of Absolute Sale of the Schedule Property as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

S C H E D U L E PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing House list No.34, New BBMP E.P.I.D No.2597702667 (Old Village Panchayath Katha No.591, Old PID No.96-32-34), Ward No. 21-Hebbal, presently comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West 30 feet (9.14 Meters) and North to South 40 Feet (12.19 Meters), in all totally measuring 1200 Square Feet (111.48 Square Meters), along with the residential building consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor totally measuring 162.58032 Square meters (1749.998 Square feet) of built up area and the Second Floor and Third floor totally measuring 143.999712 Square meters (1549.998 Square feet) of built up area, the building constructed on Bricks, Cement, Red-oxide flooring, Jungle Wooden Doors and windows with civic amenities, Situated at 1st Cross, Sumangali Sevashrama Road, Cholanayakanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and bounded on the:

East By : S.V.L NARAYANAMMA PROPERTY, West By : GANGAPPA PROPERTY, North By : N.G. INDUMATHI PROPERTY, South By : 20 FEET ROAD.

A.P. GURURAJ, Advocate,
No.1981, 8th Main "E" Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.
Mobile No. 9980100658

Government of Karnataka
MYSORE PALACE BOARD
Office of the Executive Officer, Mysore Palace Board, Mysore Phone : 0821–2421051
Fax : 2434425, E- mail : ddmysorepalace@gmail.com, , GST: 29AAAGM0484MIZX

Tender Number: EO/MPB/DD/Civil/Tender-02/2025-26 Date : 23.07.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Deputy Director, Mysore Palace Board, Mysuru Invites the Tender by Civil Section in Mysore Palace premises for total amount of **Rs 407.33/- Lakhs** + GST (Minimum Rs. 5.91 Lakhs + GST and Maximum Rs. 169.41/Lakhs +GST) from Eligible Vendors/Bidders/ Agencies/Firms who have executed similar type of works in Mysore Palace Board or State Archelogy or Central Archeology as per Tender Document in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Out of these works 01 work for ST, 01 work for Category-1, 02 works for SC and 02 works for Category-2A are reserved. Those bidders who wish to participate in Reserved tenders must submit Caste Certificate and Domicile certificate. For Interested Bidder a) Last date and tune for receipt of tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only **01.08.2025 upto 16.30 hrs**, b) Time and date of opening of Technical Bid: **02.08.2025 after 16.45 hrs**. Bidders who have experience in executing works in Mysore Palace Board or State Archelogy or Central Archeology will be eligible for participating in this tender. Details regarding the work and tender document may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Any clarification regarding details of the work, or any other aspects of the above tender can be had by contacting the office of the Deputy Director, Mysore Palace Board, Mysuru during the office hours.

Sd/-
Deputy Director,
Mysore Palace Board Mysuru

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDI SAI/708/2025-26

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kundan S/O, Parmanand Jha R/o No- 45/9a Saket Nagar, Huzur, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh -462024 Have Changed My Name To Kundan Jha.

I, Mohammed Maaz Munawar Shabana S/O, Munawer Ahmed & Shabana Kouser R/o 1st Main 2nd Cross Dargah Shahi Mohalla,kolar,karnataka-563101 have changed my name to Mohammed Maaz Munawer Shabana .

I, MABOOB Basha Abdul Rahim, R/a #18/1-1, 4th Cross, Opp: Axis Bank ATM, P and T Colony, Venkteshpura, Post Arabic College, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Mahaboob Basha Abdul Rahim vide affidavit dt: 28.07.2025 sworn before Notary A.Idinabba, B'lore

We, Dr Ramani Venkat Chandrasekharan, and Dr Anusha Kattuputhur Murali, W/O Dr Ramani Venkat Chandrasekharan, residing at 406, A Block, SMR Vinay Galaxy, Hoodi, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048, hereby declare that our daughter's name Adhiti Ramani and Adhiti.R, both names belong to her. Hence forth she shall be known and called as Adhiti Ramani only for all legal purposes, vide affidavit dated 28.07.25, sworn before Notary Mr Rajanna, Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RADHIKA, d/o: Alok Gupta, r/o: S–73, Golden Enclave, Old Airport Road, Hal 560017, Have Changed My Name As Radhika Gupta Vide Afdvt Dtd on 28/07/2025

I, NEETHU D/o. Mohan.J.H, R/at # 109, Maruthi Nilaya, Govt School Road, Jakkur Bluru-64 have changed my name to J.M.Reetu Raksha (Jakkur Mohan Reetu Raksha) vide affidavit dated 28.07.2025 sworn before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bengaluru.

I, Mahamad Umar, S/o Abdul Rasheed, residing at House #555, Dibburhalli Main Road, Elahi Nagar, Near Elahi Masjid, Sidlaghatta, Chickballapur Dist - 562105, have changed my name to Mohammed Umar as per affidavit INKA96403283318892X dated 22-Jul-2025

WE, Sri. Sunny Kumar and Smt. Shruti Shekhar both are R/a Flat No 43001, Wing 43, Sobha Dream Acres, Panathur Main Road, Bangalore-560087 hereby state that our Son's name has been wrongly mentioned as Atharva Kumar in his Birth Certificate No. 803162/B/B/2019/083906, but his correct name is Atharva Maharaj vide affidavit dt: 09.08.2024 sworn before Notary J.Ananadkumar, B'lore

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER

On behalf of Regional Railway Manager, Regional Mechanical Engineer, Madgao-Goa, invites open tender electronically in E-tender through website **www.ireps.gov.in** for the works Manufacturing, crimping , testing and supply of Hydraulic / Pneumatic hoses and its end fittings for Track Machines, DETC's , RMV's , MEMU's, Loco's, M&P and other rolling stocks for the period of 02 years. **Tender Notice No: KR-M-VEN-0625-E30146-HOSE-T113, DATE 04.07.2025. Estimated Cost**: Rs 15,00,000/-. Excluding of GST (Rupees fifteen lakhs only). **EMD**: Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty thousand only) as a EMD in favour of RFA / KRCL payable at Karwar through on line. **Tender document cost**: NIL (As per KRCL GCC JULY-2022 clause.No.3). **Last date and time submission of bid**: 18.08.2025 UPTO 14:00 HRS. **Date and time of bids opening**: 18.08.2025 at 14:30 HRS. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Center, Governerpet, Vijayawada – 520002 (A.P.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No. 66/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/2/2025-HB, Dt.28.07.2025

Name of Work: APCRDA - "RFP for Engagement of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for "Completion of balance works of multi-storied Quarters of 18 towers of (S+12) Floors Pattern for Hon'ble MLAs & Hon'ble MLCs and All India Services officers, 71 Bungalows of (G+1) floors for Hon'ble Ministers & Hon'ble Judges and 115 Bungalows of (G+1) floors for AIS Principal Secretaries and AIS Secretaries and Completion of balance works in External Infra Development for multi-storied apartment quarters in 14 towers of (S+12) floors pattern buildings for Gazetted Officers Type-I & Type-II and Group-D officials", in Amaravati Govt. Complex Village, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh including DLP of 2 Years".

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **30.07.2025** to **14.08.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **14.08.2025** up to **15.00 Hrs**, Technical bid opening **14.08.2025 @16.00Hrs**. For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in**.

Sd/-Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner for Transport
1st Floor, T.T.M.C. Building,
B.M.T.C. Complex, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru

No.CT/F&B-3/PR-159&160/2024-25 Dated: 25.07.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Quotations are invited by Transport Department from the eligible firms for Establish and maintain Automatic Testing Stations on BOO & DBFOT pattern at Cluster-3 & Cluster-4 locations. Quotations along with necessary documents shall be submitted through Online in e-Procurement platform only. For more details please log on to e-procurement website **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** They may take assistance from e-procurement help desk at +91-8046010000/+91-8068948777 Last date for submission of Bids is: 20.08.2025 up to 5:30 P.M. For clarifications please Contact 080-22235176

Cluster-3 Tender No: TD/2025-26/SE0101
Cluster-4 Tender No: TD/2025-26/SE0102

Sd/-
For Commissioner for Transport
Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2059/CCL/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Water Resources Department
Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management - (ACIWRM),
#1/1, 1st Floor, KSFC Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru - 560052
Phone No.: 080-22262042 / 43. e-mail: registrar@aciwrm.org

No.EIC/ACIWRM/AE-3/MP Tender/2025-26/149 Date: 28.07.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

On behalf of Government of Karnataka, Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ACIWRM) under Water Resources Department, invites Tender for **"Supply of Manpower Personnels of Different Category to ACIWRM, Bengaluru for 12 months"** through outsource in Two cover system from eligible Tenderer / Agency / Firm. The amount put to tender is **Rs.1,92,10,872/-,** Tender invited through KPP portal available from **28.07.2025, 5.00 p.m. onwards to 18.08.2025 till 5.00 p.m.** For more details, visit KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any clarification can be sought by contacting this office

Sd/-
Registrar / Engineer-In-Chief
ACIWRM, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO2070/AAPL/2025-26

KALYAN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR DIVISION

NO:KKRTC:VJP:TR:COMM:1241:2025-26 Dated:23.07.2025

E-Tender Publication [No: 2025/04]

Vijayapur Division invited E-Tender(Through E-Procurement) for Cleaning contract for i.e 1) CBS Vijayapur 2) Sattalite 3) Ashram City Bus Stand 4) B.Bagewadi 5) Muddebihal 6) Sindagi 7) Indi 8) Talikoti 9) Zalaki 10) Chadachan 11) Almel 12) Tikota 13) babaleshwar 14) Managuli 15) Nidagundi 16) Huvin Hipparagi 17) Devar Hipparagi 18) Nalatwad 19) Shivanagi 20) Kalkeri 21) Korwar 22) Kolhar Near D.Math 23) Kolhar Near SBI 24) Ukkali 25) Nagthan Bus Stands Comes under this Division, Detailed tender schedule is as below.

1) Last Date for submitting online application: **18.08.2025** at 17.30 PM.

2) E-Tender Opening **Date :20.08.2025** at 10.00 Am onward

For details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or Contact D.T.O :7760992252 or Commercial Case Worker (Traffic Section) @ Divisional Office during office hours.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/218/
ಕೆವಿಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Sd/- Divisional Controller,
K.K.R.T.C Vijayapur Division.

Bank of Baroda
Branch ROSARB, Bengaluru South Region, 4th Floor, Vijaya Towers, Near Trinity Circle, 41/2 M.G Road, Bangalore.

ANNEXURE - I - REDEMPTION NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2) AND/OR RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Ref No. BARBSARBES18 Date: 11.07.2025.

To, 1. Mrs. Preethi L, Residing at F104, First Flr., Saketh Hill Side Apartment, Gurudatta Layout, Hosakere Halli BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085. **2. Mrs. Preethi L, D/o Lokanath,** Flat No.109, Ground Floor, Pushpam E Town, BEML Co-operative Society Layout, S.Medihalli, Bangalore-562125. **3. Mrs. Preethi L,** No.140/2, Kamala Nilaya, Hosakere Halli, Near SEN Apartments, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085 (E mail: lpreethi889@gmail.com)

Re: Notice under Rule 6(2) and/or Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).
Ref:- 1. Demand Notice dated 02.07.2021 issued u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act 2002.
2. Possession Notice dated 15.03.2023 issued u/s 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act 2002.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Whereas the Authorised Officer of the **Bank of Baroda, Branch ROSARB, Bengaluru South Region, 4th Floor, Vijaya Towers, Near Trinity Circle, 41/2 M.G Road, Bangalore** being Secured Creditor Bank in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 (hereinafter refereed as "Act") read with Rules 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 (hereinafter refereed as "Rules") issued **demand notice dated 02.07.2021** calling upon you being Borrowers (s)/ Mortgagor (s) / Guarantor (s) to repay the amount stated in the said demand notice within 60 days from receipt of said notice.

And whereas you have failed to repay the amount, the undersigned in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 4 and/or Rule 8 of the Rules have taken over the Possession of Secured Assets (hereinafter referred as the said properties) more particularly described herein below Schedule. **[Copy of Possession Notice dated 15.03.2023 is attached herewith for ready reference]**

Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to Bank as mentioned in above Possession Notice. Your attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Therefore you all are requested to pay the dues as mentioned in possession notice along with applicable interest, cost, charges & expenses within 30 days from receipt of this notice and redeem the secured asset as mentioned below. In case you fail to pay the above mentioned dues & redeem the secured asset within 30 days from receipt of this notice, Bank will be constrained to sell the secured asset through public e-Auction by publication of e-Auction Sale notice. The date, time of e-auction and Reserve Price of the property shall be informed to you separately.

Schedule of Secured Assets/Properties

Sr. No.	Description of the Movable/Immovable Properties	Date of Possession	Type of Possession (Symbolic/ Physical)	Date of Publication of Possession Notice (For Immovable property only)
1	All that Piece and Parcel of Property Bearing Flat No.109 Ground Floor, Pushpam - E-Town S.Medahalli Village Sarjapur Hobli Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, 2BHK Flat Sba-1198 Sft. Carpet Area-838.60 Sft, UDS-390.50 Sft. **Flat Bounded by: East:** Flat No.110, **West:** Open Duct, **North:** Stair Case, **South:** Open Duct.	15-03-2023	Physical	17-03-2023

Date: 11-07-2025 **Authorized Officer,**
Place: Bangalore **Bank of Baroda, Branch: ROSAB, Bengaluru South Region**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, our client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner **Sri. T.R. Ranganath.** All persons having any claim against the Schedule Property or any part thereof are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office within 15 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which our clients shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land in **Survey Number 102/2 (Old Sy.No.102, Earlier No.58),** measuring **01 Acre 20 Guntas and 08 Guntas kharab,** situated at **Gollahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** & bounded on: **East by : Land in Sy.No.58, West by : Sy.No. 58, North by : Sy.No.102/1 & Road, South by : Sy.No.58**

M/s. Jury Legal Solutions,
Advocates
No.8, 14th Cross, 14th Main, 4th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102. Ph : 9482063999 9945044999, 9902195500
Bangalore Date : 29-07-2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.
16-CWM-UBLS-2025-26
dated 21.07.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Description of Work	Approx. Value
Outsourcing of Incoming coach cleaning, undergear scrapping/cleaning and undergear spray painting in various coach types incoming for POH/SS-II/SS-III	Rs. 42,51,125.00 incl of GST

Last Date for Submission of bids:
Upto 1500 Hrs. on 11.08.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Workshop Manager/ Hubballi
PUB/330/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2025/B/6462512 Date: 25-07-2025

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/ Importer/ Authorized Agent for supply of **Microscope-Pathological and Research as per IS 4381, IS 5404, IS 4381, IS 5204.** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2025/B/6462512
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	25-07-2025
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	31/07/2025 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	16/08/2025 upto 18:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	16/08/2025 at 18:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Syndicate
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 14.08.2025
Last date of EMD : 13.08.2025

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **14.08.2025 at 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **13.08.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1.Shri Sendhil Elumalai S/o Elumulai Govindaraj** # 10, O 2nd Street, Near Shree Complex, Shivan Chetty Gardens,Bangalore-560042. **Also At:** Shri Sendhil Elumalai, R/o 401/7 14th Main Old, Madivala, BTM 1st stage, Bengaluru-560029. MOB NO.9886561236. **2.M/s PSB Distributors** 19/1 SADASHIVA REDDY COMPOUND BEHIND BALDWIN SCHOOL R M NAGAR MAIN ROAD,BANASWADI BENGALURU KARNATAKA 560043. **3. Shri Bhaskar M** No. 1534, 39th Cross,4th Block, Jayanagar Bengaluru-560041.	Flat No. F-402 3rd floor F block, Sy No.108/3, 108/2, Measuring super built up area of 1089 Sqft along with 400 Sqft of undivided interest in land at Garden Residency Apartment, Bommasandra, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099. Boundaries of the property: **East :** open to sky of the apartment building, **West :** Residential apartment privately numbered as F-401, **North :** open to sky of the apartment building And **South :** Common corridor. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.8053267N Longitude- 77.6770091**	**Rs. 5,54,05,149.03** as on **27.07.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon	a) ₹ 50.82 b) ₹ 5.09 c) ₹ 1.00	**08.08.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		Flat No. F-403 3rd floor F block, Sy No.108/3, 108/2, Measuring super built up area of 1089 Sqft along with 400 Sqft of undivided interest in land at Garden Residency Apartment, Bommasandra, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099.Boundaries of the property: **East :** open to sky of the apartment building, **West :** Residential apartment privately numbered as F-404, **North :** open to sky of the apartment building And **South :** Common corridor. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.8053267N Longitude- 77.6770091**		a) ₹ 50.82 b) ₹ 5.09 c) ₹ 1.00	
		Flat No. F-404 3rd floor F block, Sy No.108/3, 108/2, Measuring super built up area of 1089 Sqft along with 400 Sqft of undivided interest in land at Garden Residency Apartment, Bommasandra, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099.Boundaries of the property: **East :** Residential apartment privately numbered as F-403, **West :** Lift Area, **North :**common corridor And **South :** open to sky of the apartment building **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.8053267N Longitude- 77.6770091**		a) ₹ 50.82 b) ₹ 5.09 c) ₹ 1.00	
		Residential Villa old: property bearing Sy No.119/2 panchayat khatha 92/180 S Medahalli village Sarjapur HobliAnekal Taluk Bangalore. New: Property bearing Villa No.180/6A Sarjapur Athipallicross road Sarjapur Bangalore 5621244, Extent 3841.66 Sqft. Boundaries of the property: **East :** property bearing Sy No.119/1, **West :**property bearing Sy No.119/3, **North :**Road And **South :** property bearing Sy No.117. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.834639 Longitude- 77.780889**		a) ₹ 284.34 b) ₹ 28.44 c) ₹ 1.00	
2.	**1. M/S NAVADURGA SEA FOODS (Regd and Administrative Office Address)** 1st CROSS ,11/2, R V ROAD, Pattabhiramaiah street, mavalli bengaluru-560004 **2.M/s NAVADURGA SEA FOODS** Near cosmo club 1-3-18/20-1/ sathya krishna homes, suryanarayanpuram bhimavaram west godavari andhrapradesh -534202. **3.MR. ADINARAYANA SETTY B (PARTNER and GUARANTOR) C O KRISHMAIAH SHETTY Y S** no 685 3rd main road raghavendra block ,srinagar, bengaluru-560050. **4.MR. ADINARAYANA SETTY B (PARTNER and GUARANTOR)** no.948/949,13th main road, srinagar ,banashankari,bangalore-560050. **5.MR. THYAGARAJ V R (PARTNER, GUARANTOR AND MORTGAGOR)** No 12/91-2 , 1st MAIN ROAD new kalappa block ramachandrapuram, srirampuram, behind devi theatre bangalore-560021 **6.MR. GUDALA SRI HARI GOPALA RAO (PARTNER and GUARANTOR)** 7-47 opp raghava rice mill, p p road west godavari VEERAVASARAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-534245. **7.MRS .SARASWATHI B (GUARANTOR AND MORTGAGOR) W O R BHASKAR** No- 12 /91- 2 , 1st main road new kalappa block, ramachandrapuram, bengaluru north bengaluru -560021. **8.** MR. BHASKAR R (GUARANTOR AND MORTGAGOR) S O R RAMALINGAM 12/ 91 -2 , **1st main road , new kalappa block ramachandrapuram, bangalore north bengaluru-560021. 9. MRS SHANTHA R (GUARANTOR AND MORTGAGOR) W O RAMALINGAM** 12 /91 -2, 1st main , new kalappa block ramachandrapuram, bengaluru north bangaluru -560021. **10. MRS. LATHA T G (GUARANTOR AND MORTGAGOR) W/o THYAGARAJ V R** no 12/ 91- 2, 1st main raod new kalappa block behind devi theater, ramachandrapuram, vtc :bangalore, po srirampuram ,bengaluru-560021. **11.MRS. PREMA R (GUARANTOR AND MORTGAGOR) W/o G RAMESH** 8/1, 1st main road, new kalappa block ramachandrapuram , sriramapuram bengaluru-560021. **12. MRS. PREMA R (GUARANTOR AND MORTGAGOR) W/o G RAMESH** no 12/ 91- 2, 1st main raod new kalappa block behind devi theater, ramachandrapuram, srirampuram bengaluru-560021.	All that part and parcel of the residentially converted vacant land bearing Sy. No 14/2 carved out of Sy No 14 measuring 32.5 guntas of Dasarahalli Village, Krishnarajapuram, Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk duly converted for residential purposes vide Official memorandum bearing No. ALN SR (S.A) 78/95-96 dated 04.11.1995 issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, presently bearing BBMP Khata No 27/14/2 within the limits of BBMP Ward No 6, Thanisandra ,Bangalore belonging to Sri. V R Thyagaraj, Sri. R Bhaskar, Smt. Latha T G, Smt. Saraswathi,Smt. R Shantha and Smt. R Prema and bounded on the **East :** Site No- 41, 42,43 and 44 in Sy. No 13/2, Swimming Pool and Club House , **West :** Site No. 8, 9,10,11,12, and Road in Old Sy. No. -14, New Sy. No. 14/1, **North :** Site No. 38, carved out of old Sy. No. 14, New Sy. No. 14/1 And **South :**Remaining portion of Sy. No. 14 measuring 10 guntas. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude- 13.051932 Longitude- 77.613010**	**Rs. 17,49,29,401.38 as on 27.07.2025** Plus further interest and cost thereon	a) ₹ 2212.06 b) ₹ 221.21 c) ₹ 1.00	**08.08.2025 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 08025310066, 6381952519 ,8949226557,and 9483544116, during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 28.07.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

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How the fair use clause is being applied to generative AI

The summary judgments in the Anthropic and Meta cases recognise the highly transformative character of GenAI, thereby favouring a finding of fair use with respect to using copyrighted materials for training purposes

Arul George Scaria

Access to diverse kinds of materials is vital for building and fine-tuning Large Language Models (LLMs). These materials could include those that are available in the public domain (for example, works where the copyright has expired or works wherein copyright was relinquished by the authors) as well as those under copyright protection. Apart from gathering data through sources such as Common Crawl, AI firms often scan copies of books and other materials, and convert them into machine readable text from which data can be extracted for training purposes.

Whether the use of copyrighted materials for training purposes, without permission from the copyright holders, constitutes copyright infringement is a challenging legal question. Many litigations are happening across the globe around this issue.

One of the key factors that could determine the outcome in these litigations is how the courts view whether the concerned activities fall within the scope of any of the exceptions to infringement under the relevant copyright laws. For litigations in the U.S., this means one of the primary determinants in the outcomes would be the application of the 'fair use' doctrine under U.S. copyright law. Two trial courts in the U.S. have recently delivered summary judgments on fair use, and they may be considered as the beginning of the adjudications on this complex issue.

GETTY IMAGES

Factors considered

The U.S. courts generally take into consideration four factors while assessing whether a use constitutes as 'fair use'. They are – (i) purpose and character of the use, and the enquiry in this regard includes the extent to which the use can be considered 'transformative'; (ii) nature of concerned copyrighted materials (there is a higher likelihood of the fair use clause being applicable when it is used for works that are factual in character as compared to works of fiction or fantasy); (iii) amount of the portion taken, and this includes both qualitative and quantitative analyses; and (iv) the effect of the use on the potential market of the plaintiff's works or value of the plaintiff's works. The questions of transformative use and the impact on the potential market/value of the plaintiffs works have historically played critical roles in determining the final outcomes in a fair use litigation.

The Anthropic case

Anthropic trained the LLMs underlying Claude, one of their popular GenAI agents, using books and other texts from a library compiled by them. The library consisted of works obtained from different sources, including books purchased and converted to digital form as well as books acquired from potentially illegal sources. The copyright infringement action was initiated by the plaintiffs as their works were used for training without any authorisation from them.

Based on the application of the four above factors to the specific facts of the case, specifically the highly transformative nature of the use of copyrighted materials, the court, in *Andrea Bartz et al. versus Anthropic PBC*, granted summary judgment in favour of Anthropic on the question of whether the training of the AI was fair use. The court was of the view that the print-to-digital format conversion of the books purchased by them constituted fair use. However, it denied the request of Anthropic that downloading and storing of the copies sourced from illegal sources must be treated as fair use. It remains to be seen how the infringement analysis and remedies would be handed down by the court with regard to those activities.

The Meta judgment

In *Richard Kadrey et al. versus Meta Platforms, Inc.*, 13 authors had sued Meta for downloading books from illegal sources and using them for training Llama, the LLM of Meta. Based on the specific facts and the specific averments made by the parties with regard to the four fair use factors, the court granted a summary judgment in favour of Meta.

The court was of the view that use of the works for training purposes was highly transformative in character and in such instances the plaintiffs will have to bring in substantial evidence with regard to the fourth factor (whether such use has affected the plaintiff's works market value) to avoid a summary judgment against them. But as the plaintiffs in the instant case couldn't produce any meaningful evidence, the summary judgment was in favour of Meta with regard to the copying and use of the plaintiffs' books as training data. However, the court will be continuing the proceedings against Meta with respect to the argument of the plaintiffs that Meta also unlawfully distributed their works during the torrenting process.

Comparative analysis

One of the common dimensions of both the summary judgments is the recognition of the highly transformative character of the use of copyrighted works in training LLMs. This substantially influenced fair use analysis in both cases. There is an alignment on the third factor also, as both courts considered the extent of materials used reasonable in the broader context of training.

But on the fourth factor, one can see substantial differences. Judge Chahabria, who authored the Meta summary judgment, rejected the argument of the plaintiffs that Meta harmed the potential licensing market of the plaintiffs, primarily on the ground that it is not a market that the plaintiff is legally entitled to monopolise. However, he also observed that in many cases, AI training on copyrighted materials may become illegal due to "market dilution". According to him, the rapid generation of countless works that compete with the originals, even if those works aren't themselves infringing, can result in market dilution through indirect substitution. But the inability of the plaintiffs in the case to produce sufficient empirical evidence in this regard illustrates the difficulty in proving this kind of harm.

On the other hand, Judge Alsup, who authored the judgment in the Anthropic case, categorically rejected the market dilution argument and observed that the "[a]uthors' complaint is no different than it would be if they complained that training schoolchildren to write well would result in an explosion of competing works. This is not the kind of competitive or creative displacement that concerns the Copyright Act. The Act seeks to advance original works of authorship, not to protect authors against competition."

It is also worth highlighting here that the Judge in the Anthropic case considered downloading or building a permanent library of infringing works as a different use that warrants separate analysis and a different outcome. But the Meta summary judgement didn't take that approach and focused just on the ultimate purpose, that is, the training of models.

Other AI cases

Earlier this year, in *Thomson Reuters versus Ross Intelligence,* the court had reached the conclusion that the fair use exception was not applicable. However, this was not a GenAI case. The AI in question merely retrieved and shared judicial opinions based on queries from users. As this was not considered a transformative use by the court, and as the AI in question competed directly with the works of the plaintiff, the court concluded that the use of those materials without permission was not fair use.

Broader implications

Both the summary judgments in the Anthropic and Meta cases recognise the highly transformative character of use of materials in the GenAI training context, thereby favouring a finding of fair use with respect to the use of copyrighted materials for training purposes. But both judgments also reflect many of the anxieties of copyright holders. Whether the sourcing of materials from potentially illegal sources can negate the claims of fair use is an issue where scholarly opinion is divided and more discussions are warranted.

It is also evident that the kind of evidence copyright holders will bring in to illustrate the negative impact on their market will play a prominent role in determining the final outcome in many cases. This also implies that copyright infringement related issues are far from settled in the AI training area, and depending on the specific facts and evidences in each of these cases, the outcomes can be very different.

Arul George Scaria is a professor at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce p..r..o..c..r..a..s..t..i..n..a..t..e?"

"The o in the first syllable pro is like the a in China. The a in the second syllable cra is pronounced like the a in words like mat, cat and bat. The i in the third syllable sti is like the i in pit, bit and fit. And..."

"...the final nate rhymes with mate, fate and date. I suppose."

"Exactly! And the stress is on the second syllable cra. It's proCRAstinate. Do you know what it means?"

"Doesn't it mean to keep postponing doing things?"

"That's right. You keep putting off doing things. My father hates it when I procrastinate."

"So does mine. But I keep procrastinating all the time."

"Especially when it comes to doing your homework."

"That's true. I hate doing my homework. But if I am to do well in life, I should stop procrastinating."

"Absolutely right. Your motto should be: I shall not procrastinate anymore."

"Which reminds me. Is there a difference between any more and anymore?"

"Yes, there is. When used as one word, it means any longer or no longer. For example, I can say, 'Mohan doesn't smoke anymore.'"

"Meaning that Mohan has stopped smoking?"

"That's right. Mohan no longer smokes."

"So, I can say, 'I don't want to live in this city anymore'?"

"You certainly can. But tell me, why don't you want to live here anymore?"

"Oh, that was just an example."

"Well, in that case, here's another example. The dentist told Asha not to eat chocolates anymore."

"He wants her to give up eating chocolates. Poor Asha."

"Well, it's better than having rotten teeth."

"That's true. Now tell me, what does any more mean?"

"It is usually used with quantity. For example, if I say, 'I don't have any more pencils', it means..."

"...I have no more pencils."

"That's right."

"Last night, my mother told me not to eat any more halwa."

"It's not good to eat too much sweet."

"But tell me, what exactly is the difference between 'I don't want to eat ice cream anymore' and 'I don't want to eat any more ice cream'?"

"When you say you don't want to eat ice cream anymore, it means that you want to give up eating ice cream. You want to stop eating ice cream permanently."

"Good grief. I'd never want to do that."

"If, on the other hand, you say, 'I don't want to eat any more ice cream', it means that you have eaten enough ice cream for today and you do not want any additional ice cream now."

"So, it's not on a permanent basis?"

"No, it isn't. You may eat some ice cream tomorrow."

Published in The Hindu on June 3, 1997.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Renowned Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh died on this day in 1890. Here is the first part of a quiz on the troubled artist

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Van Gogh famously cut off his own ear. While there are different versions of what prompted this, several historians say an argument with a fellow painter led to the incident. Name the painter.

QUESTION 2
Japanese auteur Akira Kurasawa paid homage to Van Gogh with a segment in his anthology. Name the segment and the anthology.

QUESTION 3
Name the hand-painted animated feature that came out in 2017 as a homage to the artist.

QUESTION 4
Where was Van Gogh staying while he painted 'Starry Nights', one of his most famous works?

QUESTION 5
Name the only painting by Van Gogh that was sold while he was alive.

Visual question:
What did Van Gogh intend to convey with this painting, the 'Bedroom in Arles', which was inspired from the room he lived in after he moved to South France to set up an artists' colony?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The last rider to win four titles. **Ans: Great Britain's Chris Froome**
2. Riders from this non-European country claimed Stage wins prior to the last Stage on July 27. **Ans: Australia**
3. This unfortunate distinction is common to Stage winners Philipsen (Stage 1), Mathieu van der Poel (Stage 2), and Remco Evenepoel (Stage 5). **Ans: They withdrew from the event before the race's conclusion**
4. Pogacar won this jersey for topping the mountains classification. **Ans: Polka Dot**
5. Stage 19 was cut from 130km to 95km, with two planned categorised climbs dropped, because of this specific reason. **Ans: Herd of diseased cattle**
6. This was common to Stages 4, 7, 12, and 13 before the ceremonial finish with Stage 21. **Ans: They were the Stages won by the champion Slovenian**
Visual: Name this champion. **Ans: Jonas Vingegaard**
Early Bird: Pranab Biswas

Word of the day

Flout:
treat with contemptuous disregard; laugh at with contempt and derision

Synonyms: scoff, barrack, gibe, jeer

Usage: *He always flouts the rules.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/floutpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /flaʊt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

CS instructs officials not to appoint teachers for voter list revision

Shalini Rajneesh has instructed District Election Officers and DCs to appoint non-teaching staff, officers, and staff members working in various departments on priority basis for the task

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has instructed the District Election Officers and Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all districts to appoint non-teaching staff, officers, and staff members working in various departments on priority basis for the task of revising the voters' list, instead of teachers.

In a note to the officials, Ms. Rajneesh said that in the public interest, school teachers working under the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) were being made Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for revising the voters' list. "Due to this, the Principal Secretary of the DSEL has expressed concern that the educational activities in schools are being hampered and the quality of education is decreasing," she said.

"In the order issued by the Supreme Court on December 06, 2007, in civil appeal, it has been instructed to generally use the services of school teachers during holidays, non-teaching days and to assign non-teaching staff to election duties at any time," she stated in the note.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa had been advocating against the use of teachers for non-academic work. FILE PHOTO

However, it may be noted that the State Election Commission has decided to appoint about 40,000 teachers as BLOs for this task. The training has already started for BLOs in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits from July 15.

Mr. Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education, had objected to this and had instructed the officials of DSEL not to depute teachers for any other tasks, except educational activities. He had also instructed the Principal Secretary of the department to write a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner of the State in this regard.

"The government has already issued several orders prohibiting teachers from being assigned to other tasks in order to ensure that they focus more on teaching and respond adequately to the academic development of students and bring about better results. Despite convincing the State Election Commission about this through a letter, it is not right to proceed with appointing teachers as BLOs for the revision of the voter list," Mr. Madhu Bangarappa said.

There was also a speculation that the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission is planning to conduct a fresh Social and Educational Survey (Caste Census) during the upcoming Dasara holidays through government school teachers. However, Mr. Madhu Bangarappa clarified that teachers will not be deputed for any census, including upcoming caste census for any reason.

"The teachers in the State have already successfully completed the Scheduled Caste survey for internal reservation during the summer vacation. Now the State Election Commission is trying to depute teachers for the revision of the voters' list. The Union government has also announced census, which includes enumeration of castes as well in 2027. Each and every census will take at least two to three moths to complete the work. If teachers are appointed for all these tasks, the future of the students will be destroyed. Therefore, it has been decided not to appoint teachers for any census," he said.

FIR against social media user for defamatory posts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Halasuru Gate police registered an FIR on Monday against a social media user for uploading derogatory posts against Congress leaders, including Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Based on the complaint by Kushal H., a Congress party worker, the police charged the accused operating the Facebook account, 'krimi keeta' under Section 353 (statements conducing to public mischief), and 192 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) of BNS for further investigation.

In his complaint, Kushal told the police that a social media account posted derogatory videos and doctored audios against Mr. Rahul Gandhi, Mr. Siddaramaiah, his deputy D.K. Shivakumar, and other leaders, to defame them.

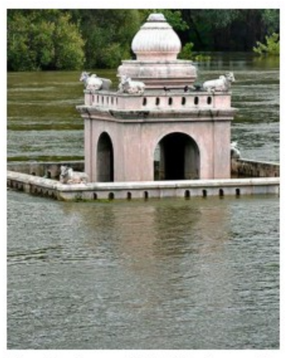
The police are verifying the details of the account holder to summon him for questioning.

Kapila river in spate, mantapa in Nanjangud partially submerged

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Following heavy discharge of water from Kabini dam due to incessant rains in its catchment areas, Kapila river is in spate, and the surroundings of the river bank in Nanjangud have been flooded.

The famous 16-pillared mantapa (Hadinaru Kalu Mantapa) at Snana Ghatta in the river has been partially submerged, and the river water is inching closer to the steps of Mudi Katte near the famous Srikanteshwaraswamy temple in the temple town. Over 40,000 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.



The Hadinaru Kalu Mantapa at the Snana Ghatta (bathing point for devotees) of Kapila river in Nanjangud. M.A. SRIRAM

Precautionary measure

As a precautionary measure, police have put barricades to prevent people from going near the swollen river, and the bathing ghat. The Kabini dam level stood at 2,281.97 ft, as against the maximum of 2,284 ft.

Flood warning issued

The inflow was 31,600 cusecs on Monday at 8 a.m. Flood warning was issued for the safety of the people living on the river banks. A few days ago, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had offered 'bagina' to the Kabini dam.

BU introduces Industry-Aligned certification courses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The initiative is a part of the university's MoU with NISM and ICSI

In a step towards strengthening industry-academia linkages and enhancing student employability, Bangalore University has started skill-based, real-time hands-on practice enabled certification courses, in collaboration with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).

These certification courses have been embedded into the curriculum of B.Com, BBA, and other undergraduate programmes under the Faculty of Commerce and Management, offering one academic credit in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th semesters.

The initiative is a part of the university's Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with NISM and ICSI—two premier national-level institutions under the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, respectively.

The ICSI is offering the following professional certification courses: Financial Accounting and Taxation, Digital Marketing, Business Analytics and Data Visualization, Entrepreneurial Skills and Start-up Management, Tally and Accounting Software, Human Resource Management Practices, Business Communication and Negotiation Skills, Financial Markets and Investment Banking. NISM is offering Financial Literacy for Bharat.

In his remarks, Jayakara S.M., Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University said, "This collaboration is a milestone achievement in aligning academic curriculum with national professional bodies. It prepares our students with real-time, industry-aligned knowledge to thrive in the competitive job market."

New gate at Majestic metro station opened

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Responding to the growing demands of daily commuters, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has inaugurated a new entry/exit gate Entry-D at Majestic metro station on Monday. A release said it provides direct access to KSRTC terminal-2 and terminal-2A.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the below mentioned property from **Mr. JAVED BURHAN NAZIR,** aged about 46 years, Son of Mr.Mohamed Nazir Ahamed, residing at No.8/21, 8th Main, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bangalore, Karnataka-560029.

Any person/s, Banks/Financial institutions or any other authority concerned having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest or objection in to or upon the Schedule Property and its else may intimate the same in writing supported by documentary evidence to the undersigned within TEN DAYS from the date of publication hereof, failing which all rights or claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and any client will proceed with the conveyance and obtain the Deed of Absolute Sale of the Schedule Property as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Vacant Site bearing No.324, PID No.6000031460, in the layout plan approved by Bangalore Development Authority, formed in various Survey Numbers of Kodigehalli, Byatarayanapura and Kothihosahalli Villages , Situated at N T I Layout, Phase II, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru-560 092, measuring East to West 30 + 26.9/2 feet and North to South 41+42/2 feet, totally admeasuring 131.186 Square Yards (1180.675 Square feet), including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and bounded on the: East By : Site No.323, West By : Road, North By : Road, South By : Site No.325

A.P. GURURAJ, Advocate,
No.1981, 8th Main "E" Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.
Mobile No. 9980100658

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

SN	Description of work	Approx. value
1	Provision of one Lift	Rs.16,13,039.16/-

each at Platform 1, Platform 2 & 3, Platform 4 & 5 and Platform 6 on the existing Foot Over Bridge of Ashokapuram Railway Station (Total - 4 lifts). **Tender No. Y/E.29/2025-26/28 Dt: 21.07.2025.**

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 11.08.2025**

2	Provision of 1 Lift	Rs. 8,10,536.07/-

each at Platform No. 1 and 2 on the existing Foot Over Bridge at Haveri Railway station and 1 Lift at Platform No. 2 on the existing Foot Over Bridge at Krishnarajanagara Railway Station (Total - 3 Nos. of Lifts). **Tender No. Y/E.29/2025-26/29 Dt: 21.07.2025**

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 11.08.2025**

3	Provision of Power	Rs.1,43,23,104.75/-

Supply and lighting arrangements to Tunnel No.7 to 25 between Kadagaravalli-Yedekumeri stations over Hassan-Mangaluru section. **Tender No. Y/E.29/2025-26/30 Dt: 22.07.2025.**

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 12.08.2025**

4	Provision of Power	Rs.1,79,24,892.8/-

Supply and lighting arrangements to Tunnel No. 26 to 57 between Kadagaravalli-Subrahmanya Road Railway stations over Hassan-Mangaluru section. **Tender No. Y/E.29/2025-26/31 Dt: 22.07.2025.**

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 13.08.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Mysuru
PUB/332/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. 14/2025/SBC Dated 24.07.2025.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Description in brief	Qty.
Set of Spares for pressurized flushing system Tender No.: L8256083	4140 Nos.

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 22.08.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Material Manager Bengaluru
PUB/335/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

SN	Description of work	Approx. value
1	Tender Notice No.	Rs.6,24,19,863.45

BE-TLAC-PC-CUMMINS-2025-3 dt. 22.07.2025. Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG / HOG mode of Bengaluru division fitted with DA sets of Cummins make, for a period of one year.

2	Tender Notice No.	Rs. 3,78,28,976.78

BE-TLAC-PC-GREAVES-2025-4 dt. 22.07.2025. Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG / HOG mode of Bengaluru division fitted with DA sets of Greaves make, for a period of one year.

3	Tender Notice No.	Rs. 1,12,39,038.89

BE-TLAC-PC-KOEL-2025-3 dt.22.07.2025. Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG / HOG mode of Bengaluru division fitted with DA sets of Kirloskar (KOEL) make, for a period of one year.

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 12.08.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Bengaluru
PUB/339/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the **NOTICE** of the General Public, that **Shri. M HEMADRI NAIDU,** aged about 54 years, s/o. M. Tharapathi Naidu, R/at Flat No. 401, 'B' Block, **"BM Silverwoods Apartment"** Harlakunte, 27th Main Road, 2nd Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102, is the full & absolute owner of the residential building constructed over property bearing Site No. 23 of Halanayakanahalli Village, Bangalore, which is morefully described in the schedule below, having purchased from C.H. Brahmaiah as Vendor along with L. Janardhana as Confirming Party, under Sale Deed dated 13/02/2017 registered as Document No. INR-1-08438/2016-17 of Book – I stored in CD No. INRD183 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Indiranagar, Bangalore.

It is further notified to the General Public that the earlier Sale Deed dated 17/03/2006 executed by K.M. Narayana Reddy in favour of C.H. Brahmaiah, registered as Document No. BAS-1-19818/2005-06 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. BASD228 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, is lost/missing. A Police complaint in this regard was also lodged with the Jurisdictional Police/Bangalore City vide Lost Report No. 1701200/2025 dated 14/07/2025 It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, they are requested to hand over the same to the below-mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.

It is also notified that Shri. M. Hemadri Naidu intends to avail a Mortgage Loan from LIC Housing Finance Ltd., by mortgaging the scheduled property.

The General Public are hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s on the basis of the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against M. Hemadri Naidu nor the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of immovable converted Residential property **Site No. 23,** Halanayakanahalli Village Panchayath, **E-Khatha No.150200402300321046,** Old Assessment No. 51/2, Khatha No. 273, New Property No. 104-51/2-23, measuring East to West **78.6 feet,** and North to South **50 feet,** totally measuring **3925 square feet,** situated at **Hado Siddapura Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** and bounded on:-

East by : 30 feet Road; West by : Land belongs to Shamanna Reddy's Son's; North by : Site bearing No. 22 &; South by : Site bearing No.24:

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070
Dated : 29/07/2025 Place : Bengaluru

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

CLARET CUP 2025

St. Claret School, Jalahalli, hosted the eagerly awaited Claret Cup tournament, attracting intense participation from 46 schools around Bengaluru. The event featured Basketball, Football, Volleyball, and Throwball, with 88 teams competing with great enthusiasm. Rev. Fr. Manoj, Administrator of Claretian Institutions, was the Chief Guest and inspired the young athletes during the opening ceremony. Despite challenging weather, the resilience of the participants stood out. St. Claret School secured the runners-up position in the U-17 girls' throwball category, highlighting the importance of sports in youth development.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Cluny Convent PU College hosted their Investiture Ceremony, formally welcoming the newly elected student council. Diyannie was appointed College President, followed by a solemn prayer service and oath-taking. House mistresses presented badges to the captains, symbolising their new responsibilities. Principal Sr. Janet addressed the gathering, urging the leaders to serve with discipline and integrity. The event marked a promising beginning for the student council of 2025–26, reflecting the college's commitment to nurturing responsible and dedicated student leaders.

SCOUTS AND GUIDES UNIT INAUGURATED

St. Dominic's School proudly inaugurated their Scouts and Guides unit, marking a significant step in fostering discipline, leadership, and community service among students. The Chief Guest, Mr MS Satheesh, Joint Secretary (Scouts), Bharat Scouts and Guides Karnataka State Association, along with Capt. Dr. HK Roopa Rani, Associate NCC Officer, and Guide Captain Ritanjali Mishra, led the ceremonial lamp lighting and salute. The event featured an oath-taking ceremony, a patriotic dance, and a skit on community service. Principal Sr. Jain Mary and School Manager Sr. Elizebeth praised the school's commitment to instilling values of service and patriotism.

**For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in**

DEBDTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT 2)
Government of India, Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services, Debt Recovery Tribunal-II, Karnataka, (Bengaluru)
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560 001.

R.P. NO. 126/10 IN DRC NO. 5710 Dated : 19.11.2010

1. M/s. Sampark Info Solutions
Represented by its Partners
Sri C. Raghavendra, S/o. Sri C. Ganesh
No. 11, 28th Cross, 11th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011.
2. Sri C. Raghavendra S/o. Sri C. Ganesh
No. 500, 35th Cross, 19th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011.
3. Smt. R. Swapna W/o. Sri C. Raghavendra
No. 500, 35th Cross, 19th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011..
-Defendants/ Certified Debtors

Subject : DRC No. 5710 in OA No. 463/2008 in the matter of Vijaya Bank, South End Road Branch, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004. Vs. Ms. Sampark Info Solutions and Two Others

Whereas a Debts Recovery Certificate has been forwarded by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debt Recovery Tribunal, Karnataka, Bangalore vide DRC No.5710 dated 07.07.2009 under the Sub Section (22) of Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (Act 51 of 1993) hereinafter referred to as the Act. **Rs. 30,69,595/-** (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Sixty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety-Five only) the details of which are given below is to be recovered from you jointly and severally.

2. You the defendants are hereby directed to pay the above said sum, within 15 days from, the date of receipt of this notice, to the applicant bank, under intimation to the undersigned, failing which recovery shall be effected Recovery. In accordance with the provisions of Section 25 and other relevant provisions of the Act.

3. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you shall be liable, for payment of : **(a)** Such interests as is payable in accordance with the provisions of the Said Act of 1993 for the period from the date of order of the Tribunal till the date of realization of the debt in full; and **(b)** All costs, charges and expenses incurred for the service of this notice and other processes and warrants and all other proceedings for the realization of the debt in full.

1. Amount of DRC

Sl. No.	Item	Amount (in Rupees)
a	Amount Determined	27,32,888.61
b	Interest @ 14.50% p.a. compounded monthly from 3.11.2008 to 7.7.2009	27,32,888.61

2. Schedule of Costs

Sl. No.	Items of Costs	Amount Rs. p.
a	O.A. Fees Paid to DRT	30,000
b	Advocate's fee	24,000
c	Others charges	2,300

Recovery Officer II

Copy to : The Chief Manager, South End Road Branch, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, with the request that, the details of payment made.

IT any, by the defendant(s) may please be intimated to the Recovery Officer immediately. He is also directed to appear before the undersigned with the aforesaid details with in 15 days from the date of publication for further action taken by them subsequent to the issue of demand notice. If any, mortgaged property is available, and then the latest Encumbrance Certificate and the valuation report of the property should be sent/informed to the Recovery Officer immediately, He should contact the Recovery Officer about the further action to be taken in the matter (such as attachment of property etc.) after 15 days from the date of issue of this demand notice.

Note : Always **quote the RP. No. 126/10** in all future correspondence.

Human-elephant conflict: Protest staged, bandh observed in N.R. Pura

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The series of deaths in elephant attacks in N.R. Pura taluk prompted the people to observe a bandh on Monday and stage a protest demanding a permanent solution to the human-elephant conflict in the region.

Since November 2024, five people have died, including two victims in the last four days, in N.R. Pura taluk. The planters of Balehonnur, Khandya, and neigbhouring villages called for a bandh on the day, after Subraya Gowda, 63, of Adavane near Balehonnur, died in an elephant attack on Sunday evening.

Business establishments, extending support to the bandh, closed their shops. The schools and colleges remained closed. The movement of public transport was also hit in the region. Hundreds of people gathered in Balehonnur and raised slogans against the Forest Department.

They also tried to enter the office. The protesters blamed the officials for the repeated incidents of elephant attacks. Even after several pleas, the department did not take measures to drive away the elephants, they alleged.

The protesters said that the officials did not take the issue seriously even after so many deaths. There was no system to track the movement of the herds and alert the local residents. The Forest Department began the preparations for the operation to capture trouble-causing elephants on Monday.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUL. 29
RISE 06:05 SET 18:47
RISE 09:48 SET 22:03

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 30
RISE 06:05 SET 18:47
RISE 10:34 SET 22:38

THURSDAY, JUL. 31
RISE 06:05 SET 18:47
RISE 11:21 SET 23:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	27	19
Bengaluru	26	19

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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THE HINDU
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

From Page One

Stampede: Suspension of 4 police officers revoked

On July 10, the Cunha commission report also held these five officers responsible for the stampede and recommended "appropriate legal action" against the suspended officers. The commission found that the police "failed to stop the event knowing fully well that the event was unauthorised and that the event was organised in haste without proper security arrangements" and that "the security provided by the police was inadequate and ineffective to meet the exigency".

While it was said that the State government would file an FIR against the five officers, the Cabinet on July 24 decided to initiate a departmental inquiry against the officers and not file an FIR. Days later, the State government has revoked their suspension.

In the order revoking their suspension on Monday, issued by Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR), the government said such an action was being taken as both the judicial and magisterial inquiries had been completed and reports submitted to the government, and the officers had also given representations requesting that the suspension be revoked.

State blames Union govt. for fertilizer shortage

Among the reasons cited for the situation are that sowing began before the normal period owing to good and early rains and also the sowing area expanded, increasing the demand for urea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at an event to inaugurate development works and lay the foundation stone for others, in Maddur Assembly constituency on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Blaming the Centre's policy this year for the shortage of urea and Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) in the State, the Agriculture Department on Monday said that the supply of fertilizers had been reduced and the government had appealed six times since April to the Centre.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also accused the Centre as being 'anti farmer' and alleged that the Centre was not supplying the required quantity of fertilizers. "There has been no response to the State's request for more fertilizers. A week ago, the State requested the Centre to supply additional quantities," the Chief Minister said in Maddur.

Among the reasons cited for the shortage in the State are that sowing began before the normal period owing to good and early rains and also that the sowing area expanded, increasing the demand for urea.

The cultivation of maize increased by an estimated 2 lakh hectares and in Dharwad and Gadag districts re-sowing has been done on 13,000 hectares. The sowing commenced earlier because the command areas of the Krishna, the Cauvery, and the Tungabhadra received water, the department said.

In the last three years, the department said, the Centre had supplied all fertilizers without considering the stock available and that there had also been no shortage of urea. This year, the Centre has considered the opening stocks. This has resulted in the Centre fixing the supply at 11.17 lakh tonnes of urea in this kharif season as against the demand for 12.95 lakh tonnes.

Between April and July, as against the demand for 3.02 lakh tonnes of DAP, the Centre supplied 2.21 lakh tonnes. With respect to urea, as against the demand for 6.8 lakh tonnes between April and July, the Centre has supplied 5.35 lakh tonnes.

"The State has managed to supply all the fertilizers received from the Centre across all districts. Since April, the State has appealed to the Centre for demand-linked supply of fertilizers six times. The officials have been seeking fertilizers during the weekly video conferences. The Agriculture Minister has not only written to the Union Fertilizers Minister, but also met the Union Agriculture Minister on July 7," the release said. Further, Mr. Siddaramaiah has also written to the Union Fertilizers Minister on July 17 and 25 considering the shortage, it added.

"When the shortage of DAP was noticed, on the instructions of Agriculture Minister (N. Cheluvarayaswamy), the shortage was overcome by creating awareness among the farmers on the use of alternative nano fertilizer," it said.

'1.35 lakh tonnes of urea will be given to State in a fortnight'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

MP and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said that efforts were being made to supply 1.35 lakh tonnes of urea to Karnataka in the next fortnight, even as he alleged 'massive corruption' in the supply of urea.

He also alleged that the State government had over supplied urea so far, which meant it had buffer stock.

"The farmers in Karnataka are not getting urea, and the crisis did not blow up quickly. Owing to copious rains, the sowing area of maize increased by one-and-a-half times, which was known to the Agriculture Department. Though the demand for urea starts from July and lasts till August, this year, the demand started from the third week of June. Because of rainfall, farmers are forced to use urea thrice instead of once, which is causing financial burden on farmers," he said at a joint press conference of BJP MPs in Delhi.

There is a stock of 1.35 lakh tonnes in the State, which should be efficiently supplied, he added.

Blaming the department for failing to anticipate the demand, Mr. Bommai said that it should have kept enough buffer stock considering last year's demand and supplied it to farmers.

> The Centre has to supply 1.35 lakh tonnes for which a delegation met Fertilizers Minister J.P. Nadda who has promised supply within 15 days
>
> **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI,** MP

"The department is unable to gauge the demand. There is massive corruption in the supply of urea, wherein rich farmers paying premium are getting urea while poor farmers with small holdings are unable to get the fertilizer despite waiting at stores that are involved in selling it on the black market. Criminal action should be taken against such traders and their licence should be cancelled."

The former Chief Minister said that as against the demand of 11.17 lakh tonnes of fertilizers for the kharif season, the supply till July should be 6.25 lakh tonnes of which 5.35 lakh tonnes have been supplied. "The Centre has to supply 1.35 lakh tonnes for which a delegation met Fertilizers Minister J.P. Nadda who has promised supply within 15 days. The Centre will be supplying 15,000 to 20,000 tonnes of fertilizers daily".

BJP taunts Congress high command over Kharge's remarks

> Mallikarjun Kharge's comments have indirectly exposed how the Gandhi family, the Congress, and Siddaramaiah have been unjust to Scheduled Castes and Tribes
>
> **B.Y. VIJAYENDRA,** BJP State president

> Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lectures the nation on nyay. Is this your nyay, Mr. Rahul Gandhi? Will you start by conducting a Dalit census in your own party leadership?
>
> **R. ASHOK,** Leader of Opposition in the Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MYSURU

Taunting the Congress top leaders over AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge recalling missing out on the opportunity to become Chief Minister, the BJP on Monday alleged that the Congress high command always believed in tokenism and not transformation.

Taking to social media, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok remarked: "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lectures the nation on *nyay*. Is this your *nyay*, Mr. Rahul Gandhi? Will you start by conducting a Dalit census in your own party leadership? Or are Dalits only tools for election speeches, not for real power?"

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said Mr. Kharge had made a poignant statement that even after independence, marginalised communities have been used by the Congress as a vote bank without giving them true justice – a fact that many have now come to recognise.

He said Mr. Kharge had openly shared his pain and disappointment with the people of the state. "Mr. Kharge's comments have indirectly exposed how the Gandhi family, the Congress, and Siddaramaiah have been unjust to Scheduled Castes and Tribes," he maintained.

Insult to Krishna

Meanwhile Mr. Ashok alleged that Mr. Kharge's statement that the post of Chief Minister went to S.M. Krishna after the 1999 Assembly polls in Karnataka even though he had worked hard amounted to "insulting" the late Chief Minister.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Monday, Mr. Ashok pointed out that Krishna would have replied to Mr. Kharge had he been alive.

HC refuses to entertain govt. appeal filed after 381 days against acquittal of 6 persons

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that there is a clear bar in the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to entertain an appeal beyond 180 days after the pronouncement of verdict by trial courts, the High Court of Karnataka has refused to entertain an appeal filed by the State government after 381 days.

"...the framers of legislation have made a proviso wherein there is a total bar for entertaining the appeal after 180 days. Therefore, in view of the statutory bar, the delay of 381 days in filing the appeal cannot be condoned," the court said.

Justice V. Srishananda passed the order while dismissing an appeal filed by the State government against the September 7, 2023 verdict of a sessions court in Yadgiri district, acquitting six persons from the charges of insulting a member of the SC community in public view and other offences alleged to have been committed in 2014.

The State Public Prosecutor (SPP) had argued that taking away the right of appeal only on the ground of technicality would be harsh in a given case and substantial justice would be denied to a complainant only on the technical ground of limitation of 180 days.

However, the court pointed out that Section 14-A(2) of the 1989 Act provides only 90 days to file an appeal before the High Court against the judgement of the trial courts while granting liberty to the HC to condone the delay, after the expiry of the period of 90 days if it [HC] is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within 90 days.

As a provision to Section 4(3) of the Act makes it clear that "no appeal shall be entertained after the expiry of the period of 180 days", the court said that it has no jurisdiction in law to entertain the appeal after 180 days.

Meanwhile, the court said that it would be open for the SPP to bring to the notice of the State legislature on requirement to amend the statute, if need be, to provide a remedy for a litigant in such circumstances, where the delay occurs on account of the reasons that are not attributable to a negligent litigant, but on account of bonafide reasons.

Internal quota: Panel expected to submit report this week

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, which has been tasked with recommending quota for internal reservation among Scheduled Castes in the State, is likely to submit its report this week.

Sources in the commission said that the final report is ready and being checked for errors. The report will be submitted by Thursday to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, sources said.

Public recruitment

Currently, recruitment for public services has been stopped owing to the internal reservation issue, which will be removed once the commission's recommendations are accepted.

After a two-month survey that began on May 5, the commission managed to identify 93% of the 1.16 crore projected Scheduled Caste population in the State. The survey lagged in Bengaluru city limits where 53% of the projected 13.62 lakh SC population was identified.

The commission was set up by the government following a Supreme Court order in August 2024, which paved the way for internal reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes in the State.

The demand for internal reservation has mainly come from the Dallit left (Madigas) communities, which feels that the reservation benefits have so far been cornered by the Dalit right (Holeyas) communities, besides the Bhovis and Lambanis.

Meanwhile, bringing pressure on the government, the Dalit left community leaders have threatened an indefinite protest from August 11 in Bengaluru seeking implementation of internal reservation.

MLCs to attend summit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti will be leading a delegation of leaders from Karnataka to the legislative summit being conducted by the National Conference of State Legislatures at Boston in the U.S. from August 4.

The three-day conference is being attended by legislators from various States, policy and political experts, and Ministers from India, a release from the Information Department said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its present owner Mr. Sriram S/o. Late Mr. Muniyappa

Any person/s having any claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any objections to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of this publication, failing which our client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Site bearing No.8 measuring 40 X 15 ft, totally measuring 600 Sq. feet, BBMP Khata No.155, property No. 15/2, Ward No. 4, with a residential house constructed thereon, situated at B Narayanapura Village, K R Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded by;

East: Private Property; **West:** 20 Ft Wide Road; **North:** Remaining Property of the Vendors Note **South:** Site No. 9

Sd/- AKHILA ASSOCIATES (Advocates)
No.83, First Floor, Cropexium,
Service Road, Karthiknagar,
Doddanekkundi, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037. Ph. 9741300393 / 7624808373

Special Investigation Team inspects alleged burial spots near Dharmasthala

Raghava M.
DHARMASTHALA

Officials of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing into the allegations of a series of murders and burials at Dharmasthala, along with the complainant-witness, inspected some spots near Dharmasthala on Monday where the latter has claimed to have buried bodies.

Huge police posse

The complainant, sporting a mask and accompanied by a huge posse of police personnel, was first brought to the bathing ghat on the banks of the Netravathi around 1 p.m.

As a large number of people assembled at the ghat, the complainant was taken to the end of the bathing ghat. After walking around the area for a while, the complainant led the personnel into the nearby forest area. Nearly two hours later, the complainant was brought to the Dharmasthala police station.

Around 4.30 p.m. the SIT personnel took the complainant for another round of identification of spots of alleged burials.

The team was led by Superintendent of Police Jithendra Kumar Dayama. Along with SIT personnel, the scene-of-crime officers and personnel from the revenue and forest departments had accompanied the complainant.

A team of advocates representing the complainant also accompanied the SIT personnel. Drone camera shots of the spots were taken.

The complainant was taken to the spots after the SIT recorded his statement for two days–Saturday and Sunday– at the SIT camp office in Mangaluru.

According to official sources, the inspection of the spots of burials was part of the process to obtain permission to exhume bodies.

After completing the inspection, a report will be submitted to the jurisdictional revenue officer to seek permission to exhume bodies.

A former sanitation worker, who claimed to have worked in Dharmasthala between 1995 and 2014, has claimed to have buried more than 100 bodies.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08394–295655 E-Mail: dudc_Vijayanagara@yahoo.com

No:-DUDCV/CCMS/Vijayanagara/02/2025-26 Date:28.07-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Tenders are invited by the Project Director, DUDC, vijayanagara Dist from the registered Agencies/ firms as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-2001 & registered company/ consultancy firms under companies Act 1956 & Latest amendments thereafter through e-procurement, Government of Karnataka https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for Appointment of CONCESSIONAIRE for implementation and maintenance of led street lights and centralized control & monitoring system through Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Vijayanaraga Dist ULB`s limit.

Indent No: DMA/2024-25/SE4895. **Name of Work:** Implementation of Energy Efficiency Project for streetlights by replacement of existing conventional lamps with LED lamps along with Centralized Control & Monitoring System (CCMS) in Vijayanagara DUDC limits through PPP mode. **EMD Amount (In Rupees):** As per Bid Document. **Project Period:** 8 months (including monsoon period) and operation and Maintenance for seven years

1.Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **28-07-2025.** 2.Pre Bid Meeting on **12-08-2025 at 11.00 AM,** DUDC, Vijayanagara DC Office Hosapete

3.Last date for submission of tenders through e-procurement portal on or before16.30 hours on 29-08-2025

4.Opening of Technical Bid on **30-08-2025 by 17.00 PM hours.**

For further details contact this office Phone A.E.E DUDC Vijayanagara 9731867295 & Nodal Officer:-9986664225and e-mail ID: dudc_vijayanagara@yahoo.com

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/164

Sd/- Project Director
DUDC, Vijayanagara District

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

K Nandagopal (83), Retired Foreman (Non Supervisory), Security Dept, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 25-July-2025. Address: 3, V V Muthu Nadar Illam, Ramalingeshwarar Koil Street, Teynampet, Chennai - 600018. Contact: 98402 19960.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Nuns are innocent, say kin of tribal women

Arrest of Keralite nuns in Chhattisgarh triggers protests; siblings of the purported victims reject allegations of trafficking and forcible conversion; they say the tribal women were accompanying the nuns to Agra for a job with the consent of family members; Chhattisgarh Chief Minister defends arrest

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Days after the Chhattisgarh Police arrested three persons, including two Keralite nuns, on charges of trafficking and forcibly converting a few tribal women, the latter's family members have denied the police claim.

The kin said the women accompanied the nuns and a man from Narayanpur of their own volition, and that they are innocent.

However, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, on Monday, backed the arrests saying that "through inducement, an attempt was being made [by the arrested persons] to engage in human trafficking and conversion".

The arrest sparked widespread protests from Delhi to Kerala on Monday.

Nuns Preeti Mary and Vandana Francis, and Sukaman Mandavi from Narayanpur were arrested on July 25 after a local Bajrang Dal member, Ravi Nigam, filed a complaint with the police saying that Mr. Mandavi had brought three women to the Durg railway station, from where they had to go to Agra with the two nuns.

'They are being framed'

Speaking to *The Hindu* over the phone on Monday evening, the sisters of two of the women rejected claims of forcible conversion, and said they themselves had consented to be taken to Agra for a job. Their family members did not have any objections either, the women said.

"Our parents are no longer alive and I sent my sister with the nuns for her to take up a nursing job in Agra. I myself had taken up a job with them in Lucknow and I realised a similar move would help her to become self-reliant. And my sister was completely in agreement. The sisters (nuns) are innocent. Even the boy (Mandavi) is being framed... we sent our sisters with him," said the elder sister of one of the three women, over phone from a police station in Durg. The younger sister of another woman who was in Narayanpur demanded the release of the nuns and said her sister left home on July 24, and that the family had converted to Christianity five years ago.

In solidarity: Kerala Congress(M) workers protest in Kottayam on Monday over the arrest of the nuns in Chattisgarh. VISHNU PRATHAP

In a related development post the arrests, all three families gave a written submission to the Narayanpur Police on July 26 saying that they were aware that the women were being taken for jobs, said Narayanpur Superintendent of Police Robinson Guria.

On the question of families' consent and the basis for arrest, a Government Railway Police (GRP) officer said they were in the process of gathering corroborative evidence.

Safety issue, says CM

Even as senior police officers in the GRP or the State police were unavailable for comment, the Chief Minister backed the move and claimed the issue of women's safety was being given a "political colour".

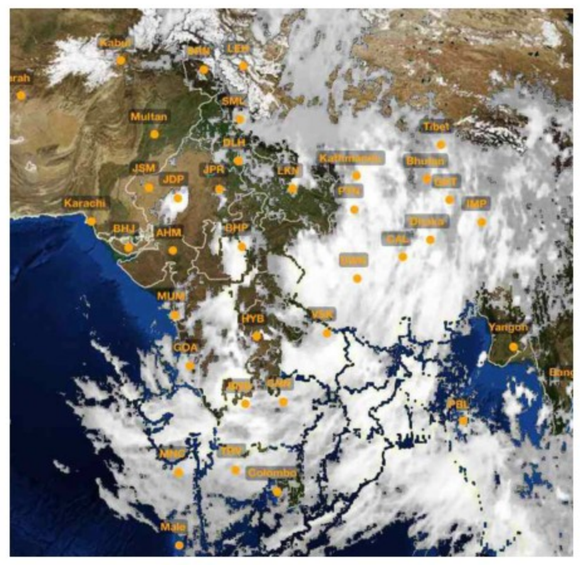
"Three daughters from Narayanpur were promised nursing training and subsequent job placements. They were handed over to two nuns at the Durg station by a person from Narayanpur, who were taking the girls to Agra. Through inducement, an attempt was being made to engage in human trafficking and conversion," Mr. Sai said.

"This is a serious matter related to women's safety. The investigation is still ongoing. The matter is under judicial review, and the law will take its course."

"Chhattisgarh is a peaceful State where people of all religions and communities live in harmony. It is extremely unfortunate to give a political colour to the issue related to the safety of our Bastar daughters," he wrote on X.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi, Punjab, Kerala & Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	20.0	—	25.7	Kozhikode	68.0	32.6	22.8
Ahmedabad	22.0	27.3	25.5	Kurnool	—	31.8	24.1
Aizawl	3.0	24.5	23.1	Lucknow	—	31.7	27.9
Allahabad	—	31.4	27.2	Madurai	—	40.9	24.6
Bengaluru	0.2	25.9	19.0	Mangaluru	16.0	29.6	21.6
Bhopal	27.1	—	23.2	Mumbai	16.0	29.6	21.6
Bhubaneswar	26.0	34.2	25.1	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	15.8	27.2	32.2	New Delhi	—	35.0	28.7
Chennai	—	35.2	27.4	Patna	49.0	29.1	26.7
Coimbatore	0.3	30.8	22.2	Port Blair	17.0	29.2	25.4
Dehradun	29.0	29.7	24.8	Puducherry	—	36.5	23.0
Gangtok	12.0	21.0	19.2	Pune	8.0	25.4	22.5
Goa	5.4	—	—	Raipur	0.8	—	25.1
Guwahati	23.0	—	26.6	Ranchi	—	27.6	23.2
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	34.0	—	18.6
Hyderabad	—	30.1	22.4	Shimla	0.2	21.5	18.2
Imphal	10.1	28.4	22.6	Srinagar	—	34.0	22.0
Jaipur	—	34.2	27.8	Thiruvananthapuram	2.0	32.5	23.4
Kochi	56.0	30.0	23.2	Tiruchi	—	36.7	27.0
Kohima	17.0	28.8	19.9	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	9.0	32.0	27.0	Visakhapatnam	—	36.7	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	..56	19	 22	29	.....
Bengaluru	.10	..24	24	 50	62	.....
Chennai	...5	..26	.—	 32	...100	.....
Delhi	..—	..16	14	 43	85	.....
Hyderabad	.36	..17	37	 86	93	.....
Kolkata	.10	..79	30	 30	45	.....
Lucknow	.10	..37	63	 46	...163	.....
Mumbai	...9	..13	.—	 30	79	.....
Pune	..—	..48	71	 27	43	.....
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	20	..... —	.....—	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 238 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Protests intensify in Kerala over arrests

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The protests over the arrest of two Keralite nuns on "questionable charges" of kidnapping, human trafficking, and forced conversion at Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh last Friday gathered momentum in Kerala and New Delhi on Monday.

They also seemed to assume a politically bipartisan character with MPs from Kerala, both from the United Democratic Front and the Left Democratic Front, protesting simultaneously outside Parliament, denouncing the "minority hate" fuelled arrest of the nuns on "trumped up" charges.

The leaders also denounced the Hindu right-wing Bajrang Dal's "coercive role" in the arrest of Sister Vandana Francis and Sister Preeta Mary of the order of the Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate.

Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian said that the matter was sub judice and he could not risk hazarding an opinion until the court processed the nuns' arrest. He stated that BJP's Kerala president Rajeev Chandrasekhar was working closely with the Central and Chhattisgarh governments, as well as the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, to secure the early release of the nuns.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding justice for the "unfairly incarcerated" nuns.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan stated the attacks against Christians in BJP-ruled States had multiplied after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunny Joseph, MLA, said Christians in the BJP-ruled States lived in fear of persecution.

Action against nuns 'disturbing': Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin has opposed the arrest and alleged harassment of two Keralite nuns on charges of kidnapping, human trafficking, and forced conversion in Chhattisgarh.

He said he was deeply disturbed to see the Catholic nuns being "subjected to harassment and false accusations" by Bajrang Dal in Chhattisgarh.

'Communal vigilantism'

"This targeted mob action reflects a dangerous pattern of communal vigilantism enabled by state inaction. India's minorities deserve dignity and equal rights, not fear," Mr. Stalin said in a post on X.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No. EE/SJN/TEND/08/2025-26 Date: 28.07.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Re-surfacing of Meckan road Memorial Street, D.K. Street in Ward No. 120, Bharathi Nagar (General Category).
	Approx. value of work : **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2,00,000/-.**
2	Improvements of drains and Re-surfacing to Domodhar modaliar road Annappa Reddy road and Yellappa Chetty layout in Ward No. 121, Ulsoor (General Category).
	Approx. value of work : **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2,00,000/-.**
3	Improvements of drains and Re-surfacing to Krishnamma Garden, Muddamma Garden Extension and Chinnappa Garden link road and surrounding area in Ramaswamy Palya in Ward No. 116. (General Category).
	Approx. value of work : **Rs. 200.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 3,00,000/-** (Rs. 1.00 lakh NEFT, remaining Rs. 2.00 lakhs Bank Gurantee.
4	Improvements of footpath at selected reaches and micro surfacing to 1st main road, S.R. Nagar from Raja Ram Mohan Roy road to Mission road in Ward No. 118, Sampangirama Nagar. (General Category).
	Approx. value of work : **Rs. 300.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,50,000/-** (Rs. 1.00 lakh NEFT, remaining Rs. 3.50 lakhs Bank Gurantee.
5	Resurfacing of Chakravarthy layout, Abshot layout, Crescent cross road, Gandhi Bhavan road, Kumara krupa Guest house road, Palace cross road, service road and Yamunabhai road, Madhava nagar and surrounding area Asphalt roads, Ward No. 117, Vasanthanagar. (CAT-1 Category).
	Approx. value of work : **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2,00,000/-.**
6	Resurfacing of 2nd main Millers road, 1st cross, Nandidurga road, G.C. Colony, 8th cross, Shivajinagar curve road in Jayamahal Ward No. 117. (SC Category).
	Approx. value of work : **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1,00,000/-.**
7	Improvements of drains, Re-surfacing of Church road, Munimarappa road, Anniyappa block and surrounding area in Ramaswamy palya, Ward No. 116. (ST Category).
	Approx. value of work : **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1,00,000/-.**

Period of completion : **180 days.**
Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 30.07.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **14.08.2025 at 12.00 hrs. (3)** Last date & time for submission of tenders : **18.08.2025 upto 16.00 hrs. (4)** Date of opening of technical bid : **19.08.2025 at 16.30 hrs.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division, BBMP

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; cebuildings@rediffmail.com; Tel.-(0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No. B-II-GA-(SP)-11/2023 Lr. No.-29142 / Bhubaneswar 25th July, 2025

Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No. CE-(B) - 19 / 2025-26

1.	The Chief Engineer (Building)-I, Works Department on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids from reputed Indian firms registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for infrastructure works detailed in the table below on turnkey basis (i.e. Architectural planning with detailed design, vetting & execution).		
2.	Nature of work	:	CONSTRUCTION OF 60 SEATED EXECUTIVE HOSTEL IN GOPABANDHU ACADEMY OF ADMINISTRATION, BHUBANESWAR ON TURNKEY BASIS.
3.	No. of work	:	01 No.
4.	Bid Cost	:	₹ 10,000/-
5.	Class of Contractor	:	Super Class
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.30.07.2025 to 05:30 P.M of dt.19.08.2025.
7.	Pre-bid meeting	:	Dt.05.08.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
8.	Last date of online Submission of bid	:	Dt.19.08.2025 up to 5.30 P.M.
9.	Last dt. Of Submission of hardcopy (Cover-III)	:	Dt.26.08.2025 up to 5.30 P.M.
10.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 29.08.2025 at 11:30 A.M.
11.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

B-346: **CHIEF ENGINEER-(BUILDINGS)-I, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR**
OIPR-34117/11/0124/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, SALAPADA IRRIGATION CIRCLE, SALAPADA, KEONJHAR
E-mail- acesicsalapada@gmail.com

Bid Identification No- ACESIC-01/2025-26 : 'e' - PROCUREMENT NOTICE

1	Nature of the Works	:	River Embankment
2	No of works	:	01 (One)
3	Value of Works (Excluding GST)	:	Rs.699.15 lakh
4	Period of Completion	:	09 (Nine) Calendar Months
5	Class of Contractors	:	A & Special
6	Procurement Officer	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Salapada Irrigation Circle, Salapada, Keonjhar - 758020
7	Availability of tender for On-line bidding	:	From 11.00 hrs of 01.08.2025 to 18.08.2025 up to 17.00 hrs
8	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid	:	19.08.2025 at 11.00 hrs
9	Date and time of Opening of Financial Bid	:	After evaluation of Technical Bid

Further details conditions can be seen from the Govt. web site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Additional Chief Engineer, Salapada Irrigation Circle, Salapada, Keonjhar-758020
A-438 OIPR-32468/11/0007/2526

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING
UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.

No. ME-3/2025/1711 Lucknow, Dated: 28.07.2025

REVISED TIME SCHEDULE FOR "FIRST ROUND" OF UP NEET UG COUNSELING 2025 (M.B.B.S./B.D.S.)

The Schedule of online counselling for admission to undergraduate courses (MBBS / BDS) of Government / Private Sector Medical / Dental Colleges / Institutions / Universities is as follows:-

S. No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of Merit List Declaration	**On** : 30.07.2025	01 Days
2	Date of On-line Choice filling	**From :** 31.07.2025 (11:00 AM) **To** : 04.08.2025 (02:00 P.M.)	05 Days
3	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	**On** : 05.08.2025	01 Days
4	Date of downloading the allotment Letters & Admission	**From :** 06.08.2025 **To :** 09.08.2025 **& From :** 11.08.2025 **To :** 14.08.2025	08 Days

- Candidate should assess their eligibility themselves as per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET UG 2025.
- Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the registration process and whose original documents have been verified online and who have deposited the security Fee.
- The brochure and important instructions of **UP NEET UG 2025** are available on the website **www.upneet.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in**. Keep visiting regularly for updated information.
- Helpline Numbers : **8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700**

For Director General
Medical Education & Training, UP

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद Allahabad
Zonal Office: 22 PD Tandon Marg, Prayagraj
Branch- Kalyani Devi, Prayagraj

POSSESSION NOTICE

The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Indian Bank** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notice dates mentioned against Account calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here is below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on the specified dates mentioned below. **The borrowers in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Indian Bank for an amount and interest other charges thereon.**

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guaranters/Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Property/Owners Name	Demand Notice Date/ Possession Notice Date/ Outstanding Amount
Borrowing Firm:- M/S OBEROI FURNITURE MART (Borrower) Regd. Address:-37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj 211 011. **Proprietor & Mortgagor:- 1. Smt. Sudesh Kaur Oberoi w/o- Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi (Partner, Guarantor & Mortgagor) R/o-** 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj 211011, **2. Smt. Charu Kaur Oberoi w/o- Late Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi (Partner & Guarantor) R/o-** 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011 **Mortgagor/Guarantor:- 1. Sri Inderjeet Singh Oberoi S/o Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi (Guarantor & Mortgagor) R/o-** 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011, **2. Sri Navneet Kaur D/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi (Guarantor & Mortgagor) R/o-** w/o-Ranjit Singh , Gopaljew Lane, Purighat, Town Hall Road, Cuttack Sadar, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack, Odisha - 753009 **3. Smt. Harvinder Kaur Duggal D/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi (Guarantor & Mortgagor) R/o-** C/o- Late Jagjeet Singh, G-3 Sri Sai Residency, 2nd Main 2nd Cross, Near HDFC Bank, Sarvaboumanagar, Bilekahalli, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Bannerghatta Road, Karnataka-560076. **4. Mr. Harjot Singh Oberoi s/o- Late Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi (Legal Heir of Deceased Sri Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi) R/o-** 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011, **5. Ms. Parneet Kaur Oberoi d/o- Late Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi (Legal Heir of Deceased Sri Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi) R/o-** 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011 **6. Smt. Charu Kaur Oberoi w/o- Late Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi (Legal Heir of Deceased Sri Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi) R/o-** 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of:- **Property 1:-** House No 37/1A, Chak Mundera, Pargana & Tehsil Sadar Dist-Prayagraj having Arazi No 134 Sa measuring 161.95 Sqmt having Deed no 4685/2000 Dated 03.07.2000 in the name of Mrs Sudesh Kaur Oberoi W/o Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi. **Boundries:- North:** Proposed Rasta, **South:-** Plot Phool Chandra Yadav, **East:** Part portion of Land 134 sa, **West:** Proposed Rasta **Property 2:-** House No 37/1, Chak Mundera, Pargana & Tehsil Sadar Dist Prayagraj having Arazi No 134 Sa measuring 345.31 Sq mt having Deed no 4686/2000 Dated 03.07.2000 in the name of legal heirs of late Mr Pritpal Singh Oberoi namely Mrs Sudesh Kaur Oberoi W/o Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi, Mrs Navneet Kaur (D/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi) Mr Inderjeet Singh Oberoi (S/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi), Mr Rajendra Pal Singh Oberoi (S/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi) and Mrs Harvinder Kaur Duggal (D/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi. **Boundries:- North:** Proposed Rasta, **South:-** Plot Phool Chandra Yadav, **East:** House Mahraj Kushwaha, **West:** Part portion of Land 134 sa **Boundaries of Combined Property are as under:- North-** Proposed Rasta now Interlocking Brick Road, **South-** Plot Phool Chandra Yadav Now S.P. Convent School, **East-** House Mahraj Kushwaha, **West-** Kachha Rasta	06.05.2025 24.07.2025 **Rs. 2,29,60,894.312 + Interest & other expenses**

Date: 28.07.2025 Place: Prayagraj Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Email:- swm@aurangabadmahapalika.org **Helpline Number: 155304 / 8055128080 / 8055505002**

NIT NO: OW/CSMC/SWM/ 483/2025 **Date : 28/07/2025**

"REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF OPERATORS FOR DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION AND TRANSPORTATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE UPTO TRANSFER STATIONS / PROCESSING SITES AT CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION." invites online bids through https://mahatenders.gov.in for following works from the bidders fulfilling eligibility criteria's

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Culture of risk

The notion of a routinely planned mass gathering should be done away with

A day apart, two pilgrimages in North India have endured chaos. Eight people died on the steep stairway to Haridwar's Mansa Devi shrine on July 27 after a rumour spread that a snapped power line was live. The next day, at Avsaaneshwar temple in Barabanki, monkeys reportedly damaged an overhead cable, sparking panic that killed two persons. Both incidents were triggered by fears of electrocution. Such hazards at temples are not new: makeshift wiring draped over stalls and overloaded transformers are common sights at melas. However, neither shrine had an automatic power cutoff or a public-address system capable of debunking misinformation. The Haridwar probe will almost certainly reiterate older recommendations such as underground cabling and real-time voltage monitoring. However, the threat is incidental. Except for two major stampedes in recent memory (in Bengaluru and Hyderabad), all such tragedies have occurred at religious mass gatherings or in the course of attending them. They occur despite multiple guidelines and court orders due to authorities' collective desensitisation to risk. On paper, Uttarakhand has a crowd-management manual for the Char Dham and the NDMA's guidelines say that every event must calculate carrying capacity, stagger entry, maintain redundant escape routes, and hold drills. Yet, at Mansa Devi, the stairway that doubles as entry and exit was used without scheduling, and the only alternative route had much lower carrying capacity.

In Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the response centred on compensation rather than structural reform. The NDMA norms need to be legally binding, with severe consequences for persons, enterprises or businesses that fail to protect lives. At present, States choose provisions from the norms and temple trusts often treat them as optional because pilgrim facilities fall under charitable exemptions in many building codes. Routine 'darshan' does not require safety certification even when daily footfall exceeds that of a sports stadium. States also bank on ad hoc volunteers and under-trained guards to manage surges. However, annual drills mandated under the Disaster Management Act are rarely held for regular worship, while funds earmarked for permanent infrastructure are often diverted to festivals. The time has come to eradicate the notion of a simply planned or cheap mass gathering event, religious or otherwise. When footfall exceeds a preset threshold, a single incident-command structure must come into effect. Authorities must deploy overhead LiDAR and AI cameras to calculate crowd density, with real-time alerts to help divert or throttle traffic. Finally, States must ensure that venues publish capacity charts at entrances, conduct and livestream quarterly drills to normalise a safety culture, and certify volunteers in basic life support and crowd psychology.

Lessons from past

The Chola legacy includes good governance, not just grand temples

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tamil Nadu had a subtle political message. In his address at the valediction of the annual Aadi Thiruvathirai festival at Gangaikonda Cholapuram to mark the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I, he focused on the legacy of the Chola emperor and his father Rajaraja Chola I to underline that contemporary India would be as enterprising as ancient India under the imperial Cholas, in expanding trade, and in guarding India's sovereignty. The festival was also organised to commemorate 1,000 years of the maritime expedition of Rajendra Chola to south-east Asia as well as the construction of the iconic temple, a World Heritage Site. The grandeur of the Chola dynasty is fascinating to recall, but there are other mundane facets of the Chola rule which are of modern relevance – its water management, tax and land revenue collection, and democratic processes.

In creating infrastructure, especially, the Cholas hold many lessons. In recent months, there have been fatal accidents involving civic structures. The resilience of the Brihadisvara temples, which have stood tall for over 1,000 years, could provide learnings. Studies show that the southern peninsula was the epicentre of several earthquakes in the last 200-odd years. Archaeologists are of the view that the superstructure of the temples holds the key to modern building techniques when it comes to seismic resilience. A close study of the temples for structural stability can be of immense value in the contemporary context. Apart from focusing on the heritage and culture of the Cholas, India could try and replicate their success in administration. Management of water resources, especially, could be an important learning. The Cauvery delta, where Gangaikonda Cholapuram is located, may experience floods, with a large volume of water draining into the sea without being harnessed for periods of scarcity. More than 30 years have passed since the adoption of the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution, but a large number of local bodies, even in the major cities, are functioning without elected representatives. The celebration is an opportunity for an analysis of the functioning of grassroots-level democratic bodies. Mr. Modi announced that the Centre would install the statues of Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola to remind the country of its historical consciousness. But this exercise would have greater purpose if it reminds the country of the administrative acumen of the Cholas, and nudges those in governance to address many of the chronic flaws and problems.

The medical boundaries for AYUSH practitioners

The recent controversy on X between a hepatologist and an Indian chess Grand Master, on whether practitioners of traditional medicine can claim to be doctors, has sparked much commentary on the role and the status of practitioners of traditional Indian medicine systems such as Ayurveda and Unani, in India.

Committees, governments, perspectives

The burning issue here is not merely whether practitioners of Ayurveda can refer to themselves as doctors, but rather the scope of medical activities permitted under Indian law. This is an issue which has consequences for public health. A starting point for this discussion is to understand the framing of the debate over the last 80 years, beginning 1946, when the Health Survey and Development Committee, better known as Bhore Committee, batted in favour of modern scientific medicine based on evidence. The committee had pointed out that other countries were in the process of phasing out their traditional medicine systems and recommended that states take a call on the extent to which traditional medicine played a role in their public health systems.

The Bhore committee's lack of enthusiasm for the traditional medicinal system did not go unnoticed by practitioners of traditional Indian medicine who mounted a vocal protest. They managed to convince the Government of India to set up the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine, which submitted its report in 1948. This committee unabashedly wrapped up its conclusions in communal language, framing the issue in terms of Hindu nationalism by linking Ayurveda to the Vedas and its decline to "foreign domination".

While the Nehru government took no action to formally recognise these practitioners of traditional medicine, the Indira Gandhi government in 1970 enacted a legislation called The Indian Medicine Central Council Act recognising and regulating the practitioners of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani. This law was replaced in 2020 with a new law called The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act.

The syllabus for aspiring practitioners of Ayurveda is an absolute mish-mash of concepts that span everything from *doshas*, *prakriti*, *atmas* (which includes learning the difference between *paramatma* and *jivatma*) with a sprinkling of modern medical concepts such as cell physiology and anatomy. These are irreconcilable concepts – the theory of *tridosha* attributes all ills to an imbalance of doshas, while modern medicine locates the concepts of some diseases such as infections in "germ theory", among others. There is no middle ground between both systems of medicine which is why concepts such as integrative medicine make no sense.

Dinesh S. Thakur

is the author of 'The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India'

Prashant Reddy T.

is the coauthor of 'The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India'

The core issue is whether they can refer to themselves as doctors and the scope of their medical activities, as this is a subject with consequences for public health in India

Point of friction

Nevertheless, the legal recognition of this new class of practitioners led to questions on the exact boundaries between the practice of traditional and modern medicine. The major point of friction has been the prescription of modern medicines by the practitioners of traditional medicine. Ayurvedic practitioners, in particular, while claiming the superiority of their art over modern medicine, have consistently demanded the right to prescribe modern medicines developed by evidence-based modern science.

Pertinently, this dispute revolved around the interpretation of Rule 2(ee) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 which defined the class of "registered medical practitioners" who can prescribe modern medicine. This definition is complicated since it is not limited to doctors with a MBBS degree. It delegates a certain amount of power to State governments to pass orders declaring medical practitioners on their State medical registers as persons "practising the modern scientific system of medicine for the purposes of ...." the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Many State governments have used this power under Rule 2(ee) to allow registered practitioners of Ayurveda and Unani to prescribe modern medicine such as antibiotics. The constitutionality of these orders was challenged before the courts and the first round of litigation concluded in 1998 with the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in *Dr. Mukhtiar Chand & Ors vs The State Of Punjab & Ors*. The Court concluded that "the right to prescribe drugs of a system of medicine would be synonymous with the right to practise that system of medicine. In that sense, the right to prescribe allopathic drug cannot be wholly divorced from the claim to practice allopathic medicine". Simply put, Ayurvedic practitioners had no right to prescribe modern medicine.

That judgment never stopped the lobbying by Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners with State governments for the promulgation of orders under Rule 2(ee) allowing them to prescribe modern medicine. Several State governments have continued passing these orders in defiance of the Court's judgment. This inevitably leads to litigation before the High Courts, usually by the Indian Medical Association, which often wins these cases.

Unsuspecting patients too have often sued practitioners of Ayurveda before consumer courts on the grounds that they were deceived into believing that they were being treated by a doctor with a MBBS degree who can prescribe modern medicine.

While much of the litigation has revolved around the right to dispense modern medicine, there is also the issue regarding the medical procedures that can be conducted legally by practitioners of Ayurveda and Unani. For example, can a registered Ayurvedic practitioner "intubate" a patient? This is an important question to ask since it is an open secret that many hospitals purporting to practise modern medicine are hiring Ayurvedic practitioners with Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) degree at lower pay in place of graduates with a MBBS degree.

Further, a notification by the Indian government in 2020 has allowed Ayurvedic practitioners (post graduates) to perform 58 minor surgeries, including the removal of the gall bladder, appendix and benign tumours. The constitutionality of this notification is pending before the courts.

If the notification is upheld, the question that arises is whether these Ayurvedic practitioners can now use anaesthetic agents and antibiotics required to conduct surgeries. The stakes are high for public health in India since the likely strategy of Ayurvedic practitioners will be to argue that these surgeries were known in traditional Indian medicine. In these times of heady Hindutva, it will be difficult to find a judge who will ignore these claims.

The political factor

The larger political backdrop to this entire debate regarding Ayurvedic practitioners is "Hindu pride", which has fuelled claims of fantastical achievements by ancient Indian civilisation, be it the *pushpaka vimana* or the claims of the Kauravas being test tube babies. When a policy issue such as Ayurveda is cynically draped in the language of "Hindu pride", it is not just the Bharatiya Janata Party but also the Indian National Congress which feels compelled to support an obviously dangerous approach to public health. The last election manifesto of the Indian National Congress, in 2024, promised that the party would "support" all systems of medicines instead of a promise to support only rational, evidence-based medicine.

This blind faith in traditional medicine is going to cost every citizen in the future since the government is actively considering the inclusion of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) treatments under the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme funded by tax-payers. This is in addition to approximately ₹20,000 crore of tax-payer money spent on research councils functioning under the Ministry of AYUSH with a mandate to research AYUSH. They have very little to show for in terms of scientific breakthroughs. Twitter outrage notwithstanding, the joke at the end of the day is on the tax-payer.

Build on this joint statement to try and save Gaza

A recent joint statement by about 30 western states, which includes the United Kingdom, France and Italy, has called for an end to the war in Gaza. It condemns Israel's 'drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food.' It says that the Israeli government is denying 'essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population', which it finds 'unacceptable'. And it calls Israeli plans to sequester and eventually force Palestinian citizens out of Gaza 'completely unacceptable'.

This is the strongest western criticism yet of Israeli conduct across Palestine, and it has coincided with Israel's offensive on Deir al-Balah, the city which has acted as a refuge for thousands of displaced people. It has the infrastructure, logistical bases and personnel to keep people alive, and its destruction will be catastrophic.

It appears unlikely that this western condemnation will deter Israel. With a few exceptions, western governments have been calling upon their ally, Israel, to stop or moderate its behaviour while also ensuring that Tel Aviv has not suffered serious diplomatic, economic or military costs for acting with impunity across Palestine. Further, neither Germany nor the United States, Israel's most steadfast backers and its largest arms suppliers, have signed that statement. This is a signal that there has been no change in their policies and may be another reason why Israel is unlikely to stop.

But there is still time for the world to act and prevent the Palestinians from being destroyed.

The facts

Is Israel committing genocide? The International Court of Justice (ICJ) may take years to determine this. Several jurists, legal and other scholars argue that what is unfolding in Gaza is in fact a genocide. However, rather than guiding us to facts, this question has become politicised and an end in itself. And the facts are sickening.

Atul Mishra

teaches international relations at the Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR

There is still time for the world to show that humanity is one and universal

Gaza had a population of about 2.3 million people when the war began in October 2023. About 60,000 people are confirmed dead, perhaps half of them women and children, and 90% the population has been displaced multiple times. The United Nations says that Gaza's remaining population has been squeezed into about 46 square kilometres of land where systems of food, health and hygiene have collapsed. That is about 43,478 people per square kilometre, living in conditions that one would not wish upon any form of life.

Tel Aviv's game plan

But these numbers do not capture what is widely suspected to be a systematic destruction of human life and habitat in Gaza through a micromanaged plan of starvation. Israel has curbed aid inflow when the war began. Earlier this year, it imposed a total blockade of 11 weeks and followed it up with a new aid delivery system that, according to the western nations' statement, 'deprives Gazans of human dignity'. Israeli forces have killed about a thousand desperate people seeking limited amounts of food under degrading conditions. And the UN says a third of the population has been living without eating. Exhaustion is endemic. Starvation is widespread. And famine looms. Is this not a genocide?

Israel does not allow foreign journalists to report freely from Gaza. And it discredits the non-Israeli accounts coming out of Gaza. This has allowed it to dispute any assessment of its likely endgame in the territory.

That Israel is carrying out ethnic cleansing is clear. Israeli leaders have publicly stated their plan to control most of Gaza, force the Palestinians into a 'humanitarian city', and let them out only if they choose to leave for another country. Two former Israeli Prime Ministers, Ehud Olmert and Yair Lapid, have called this 'city' a 'concentration camp'. Conditions for a future generation of Palestinians in Gaza are being destroyed. And as Jean Drèze recently noted in this daily, once famine sets in, people will turn against each other, which will put an end to all solidarity and chances of reconstituting. It would then be used as evidence of Palestinian barbarism and sub-humanity – and thus further proof that the Palestinians are not a people.

Stop the hedging

The UN says that the 'last lifelines to keep people alive are collapsing', but the world can still step in. The world has a chance to halt the catastrophe. Governments can review the scale of their diplomatic, economic and military ties with Israel. International peacekeepers can be sent to Gaza. Russia, China and India could join their 'Global South' partners in exerting additional pressure on Israel to stop. The Gulf countries and Türkiye should stop hedging. The western nations' statement has '... urge[d] the international community to unite in a common effort' to end the war. Non-western governments can test western sincerity by offering to evolve a common approach.

There are some of us who know what is going on in Gaza is an act that will end the idea that 'humanity is one and universal'. Therefore, we must do what we can. Governments and corporations have more influence, but individuals can act on their conscience too. The time to act is now. Otherwise, we will be hanging our heads in shame and regret.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Honouring Chola legacy

India should formally honour the Chola legacy for launching successful naval expeditions beyond India shores and establishing the Tamil influence across Southeast Asia. Getting the Indian Navy to celebrate 'Rajendra Chola' day would be a fitting tribute to these unmatched maritime achievements. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's references to Chola military and democratic legacy rightly spotlights their enduring contributions. Their practice of *Kudavolai Murai* — selecting local representatives by lot — was a democratic model that was centuries ahead of its time.

The Chola overseas campaigns were not just conquests but also acts of cultural diplomacy and naval vision. Honouring the Cholas would not be symbolic alone. It would reclaim India's proud naval heritage and inspire a forward-looking maritime spirit rooted in our own history.

Avinashiappan Myilsami,
Coimbatore

It appears that the Cholas have done the impossible by bringing Dravidian federalism and the current fiery nationalism to the table. The sudden interest in history, from both the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Bharatiya Janata Party, seems less about the Cholas themselves and more about scoring political points. One side speaks of Tamil pride; the other of ancient Indian glory. Meanwhile, the Cholagangam tank, locally referred to as Ponneri, which was built by the Cholas and an engineering marvel, lies broken. Perhaps a way of scoring points would be to repair it.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

It is a matter of pride that Tamil Nadu is now home to a number of World Heritage sites. One can think of Gingee Fort along with the great Chola temples and the Mahabalipuram monuments. The only drawback at these sites is the lack of proper infrastructure. Connectivity is an issue. Pollution control too is another problem.

A.S. Thirumalai,
Chennai

Crowd management

Stampedes have become a frequent occurrence, leading to a tragic loss of lives (Front page, July 28). There needs to be comprehensive crowd control and management measures in place at all places of public gathering. There needs to be a posse of well-trained volunteers (with a specific dress code) to guide people and ensure their orderly movement.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Why antitrust regulations are pertinent

Alwyn Didar Singh

Former Secretary to the Government of India and former Secretary General, FICCI

While arguing for the Sherman Act, Senator John Sherman said in 1890, "If we will not endure a king as a political power, we should not endure a king over the production, transportation, and sale of any of the necessaries of life." The law would eventually mark the beginning of antitrust regulation in the United States, while also laying the groundwork for similar statutes preserving market competition worldwide, including in India.

Sherman's idea of what constitutes a "necessity of life" has evolved since then. Technology is reshaping societies and markets – it now shapes the production, transportation, and sale of most goods and services, leading to the rise of what we now term the global 'digital economy'. India is a significant player, with its domestic digital economy contributing 11.74% to its GDP (2022-23). This success has partially been driven by technology start-ups, which rose from just 2,000 in 2014 to over 31,000 in 2023. The government recognises their potential and leans on them to build a $35 trillion 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Yet Sherman's concern about a few players dominating economies still applies. In Digital India, the kings are located in foreign waters, dictating selective terms to home-grown start-ups building the country's digital future. As a result, the ability of Indian start-ups to scale is often stunted. While these global firms connect societies, they also wield immense monopolistic power. A recent case by a leading Indian online gaming company against Google, filed with the Competition Commission of India (CCI), highlights the risks posed by such dominance.

On start-ups and monopolies

Discriminatory practices by gatekeepers in the digital economy harm India's economy, business environment, and consumers.

Google, for example, dominates distribution and discovery of digital services. With Android holding about 95% of the of the mobile operating system market share in India, it is nearly impossible for consumers to discover new online businesses without the latter hawking their services on Google's superior search engine, app store, or online advertising ecosystem. This dominance has led to discriminatory outcomes for Indian start-ups. For example, high commissions levied by Google on transactions taking place within its payments ecosystem have dampened the revenues of start-ups using these services. These issues have led domestic antitrust regulators to crack down on the tech giant, preventing Google from restricting app developers from using third-party payment systems or from communicating with their users to promote their apps.

The gaming start-up's CCI filing is an addition to this long list of concerns with Google's anticompetitive behaviour in India. In its complaint, the gaming industry leader alleged that Google abused its dominant position via a discriminatory Real Money Gaming (RMG) Pilot Program operated through the Play Store, and restrictive advertising policies. Google's Pilot Program, launched in September 2022, selectively permitted two specific formats of RMG on the Play Store – Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS) and rummy – limiting market access for other formats of RMG, such as the casual games offered by the gaming company. While Google discontinued similar pilots in Mexico and Brazil in June 2024, its Indian iteration continues to date, offering DFS and rummy operators relatively unfettered access. For example, the complaint notes that a DFS operator with 90% of the market share acquired 150 million users over 16 years, but upon joining the Pilot, it added another 55 million users in just one year. Google similarly amended its advertising policies following the launch of the Pilot, limiting gaming advertisements to DFS and rummy operators, which earlier allowed advertisements by all games of skill. Before these amendments, the online gaming leader claimed that 68.21% of its app downloads were derived from Google's ad program. Now, they have stopped – a deep cut for an Indian start-up with proven global credibility and scale. CCI, the forward-looking and progressive digital regulator, has began an investigation into these concerns.

Discriminatory practices by gatekeepers in the digital economy harm India's economy, business environment, and consumers

Costs to India

Such market distortions carry serious economic consequences, compromising India's ability to reach its digital economy ambitions. Most importantly, lack of competition leads to "reductions in quality and consumer choice[s]", and excessive reliance on few powerful players. Net-net, everyone loses, except the gatekeepers.

India cannot afford such a loss in innovation – and nor can its people, who will ultimately benefit from competitive growth, driven by ambitious start-ups. Sherman's homeland offers some insight into what the future holds for markets where the antitrust issue is not addressed head-on. Antitrust scholars suggest that rising monopolisation across American industries has increased the cost of doing business for growing businesses, leading to a dramatic decrease in Initial Public Offerings. The economic consequences of such lopsided markets are too severe for India to bear.

Ultimately, global tech giants play a critical role in powering these new-age businesses. What the future requires is recognition from Indian adjudicators that avenues for distribution and monetisation must be democratised, without gatekeeping, for domestic start-ups to thrive. The gaming industry leader's case carries on Sherman's legacy – it is one step towards a fairer field for everyone.

Politics of polarisation

A fear that gained currency during the Assam agitation is being stoked now too

STATE OF PLAY

Rahul Karmakar
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Following India's independence, Assam has consistently experienced religious, linguistic, ethnic, and sub-regional differences, which have led to violence at times. Debates that have occupied the social space include the *Ujoni* (Upper Assam) temperament versus the *Namoni* (Lower Assam) disposition and the *khilonjia* (indigenous) versus the *bohiragata* (outsiders). However, none of them has been as polarising as the one between the indigenous and the Miya, a pejorative term for Muslims with roots in Bangladesh.

This divide is rooted in the fear that Bangladeshi nationals will take over Assam. This fear gained currency during the Assam agitation (1979-85), which led to the signing of the Assam Accord of 1985. The accord prescribed the detection, deletion (from electoral rolls), and deportation of foreigners who entered Assam on or after March 25, 1971; constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards for the Assamese people; and restricting the acquisition of immovable property by foreigners, which invariably meant Bangladeshi people. The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh supported the movement.

The Bangladeshi issue became an election staple from the controversial 1983 election, in which the Bengali-speaking Muslims, who are dominant voters in at least 35 of Assam's 126 Assembly seats, participated despite a boycott call by the pro-agitation groups. The issue dominated the 1985 election, won by the

Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which mostly comprised leaders of the agitation. It also birthed the United Minorities Front, whose rise stoked the perceived demographic threat, before its space was taken up by the All India United Democratic Front.

The Bangladeshi or 'illegal immigrants' issue was in the sub-text of the promise to protect '*jaati* (race), *maati* (land), *bheti* (hearth)' that helped the BJP form its first government in Assam in 2016. The party's minor allies were the AGP and the Bodoland People's Front, which ruled over a tribal council with a history of conflicts between the dominant tribe and the migrant Muslims. The BJP-led government showed it meant business by carrying out the first eviction drive in three fringe villages of Kaziranga National Park in September 2016, almost a year after the Gauhati High Court ordered the reclamation of encroached land. Two people were killed during the eviction of mostly migrant Muslims.

A similar exercise to evict families from forest land, grazing land, and government revenue land was carried out in at least 12 places across the State before the BJP retained power in 2021 and Himanta Biswa Sarma became the Chief Minister. Despite strong sentiments against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, the party came to power relying on vikas (development) to turn the tide in its favour.

A former Congress leader, Mr. Sarma has been maintaining that the BJP does not need the votes of Muslims to win elections, while taking care to distinguish the Bengali Muslims from the *khilonjia* Assamese Muslims. The eviction drive became more aggressive under him. In September 2021, an eviction drive in Gorukhuti in Darrang district claimed two lives. It was paused after a few more operations. The drive was restarted in June this year across several districts of western and north-eastern Assam.

Citing official documents, Mr. Sarma has said that 1.29 lakh bighas have been cleared of squatters so far, and about 29 lakh bighas of land are still under encroachment in the State. He made it more than apparent who his government is against by calling encroachment of land a "jihad to finish the State". He linked it to an impending demographic shift, which he said would make the Assamese people a minority by 2041.

The Chief Minister's detractors say the eviction is being carried out to clear land for corporate houses, including the Adani Group, which is eyeing a thermal power project in western Assam. This, they say, is why people have been moved out of at least 49,000 bighas where indigenous communities resided.

While the eviction of other communities has been low-key, those against Muslims have had more traction because, as MLA Akhil Gogoi said, evicting minorities paves the way for the politics of polarisation so that the Hindu voters back the BJP, especially in Ujoni, where the party is facing challenges. The State elections are less than a year away.

Justice on hold: India's courts are clogged

Civil cases in district courts face the longest delays, exposing a stark mismatch between caseload and capacity

DATA POINT

Kartikey Singh

Timely justice is a cornerstone of public trust in the legal system, as captured by the classic maxim 'justice delayed, is justice denied'. Prolonged delays often deter people from approaching courts. Last year, President Droupadi Murmu termed this hesitation the 'black coat syndrome'.

Although this has been a perpetual issue in India, the scale is now striking. Over 86,700 cases are pending in the Supreme Court (SC), over 63.3 lakh cases in High Courts (HCs), and 4.6 crore cases in district and subordinate courts. Added up, the total number of pending cases in India amounts to more than 5 crore **(Chart 1)**.

While the principal actors in the judicial process – judges, lawyers, litigants and witnesses – generally act in good faith and with rational intent, their functioning is often hindered by structural bottlenecks, procedural delays, and systemic constraints. These constraints in case resolution arise from several interlinked factors, including inadequate infrastructure and court staff, complex case facts, the nature of evidence, and degree of cooperation from key stakeholders. Delays are exacerbated by the lack of mandated timelines for different case types frequent adjournments, and weak mechanisms to monitor, track, and bunch cases for hearing. A major contributor is the absence of effective case management and scheduling, with no clear timelines for filings, witness examinations, or hearings.

An analysis of the justice delivery timeline in Indian courts reveals stark disparities across court levels and case types **(Chart 2)**. Criminal cases, generally considered as offences against the State, are resolved faster than civil ones, such as property, family or contractual disputes at every tier. HCs lead by disposing of 85.3% criminal cases within a year, followed by the SC at 79.5%, and district courts at 70.6%. The real concern lies in civil litigation at the district level, which handles the bulk of India's pending cases, where only 38.7% civil cases are resolved within a year, and nearly 20% stretch beyond five years. This means that courts serving the most litigants are the least equipped to ensure timely justice.

Although the judiciary and the government consistently introduce various reforms, a major systemic cause of judicial delay is the persistent gap between the sanctioned and actual strength of judges across courts **(Chart 3)**. India's judiciary functions at just 79% of its capacity. Out of 26,927 sanctioned posts, 5,665 are vacant, resulting in overwhelming workloads. District and subordinate courts, which handle the bulk of litigation, have a sanctioned strength of only 25,771 judges, averaging 18 judges per 10 lakh population. India operates with just 15 judges per 10 lakh population. Even at full sanctioned strength across all courts, it would reach only 19 judges per 10 lakh population – far below the 1987 Law Commission's recommendation of 50.

Alongside broader legal and procedural reforms, alternative dispute resolution offers a promising way forward to ease the burden on traditional courts and deliver quicker, more affordable, and citizen-friendly justice. Mechanisms such as mediation, arbitration, and Lok Adalats provide flexible alternatives for resolving disputes outside the traditional courtroom. The success of National Lok Adalats, which are organised simultaneously in all taluks, district courts, and HCs on a prefixed date **(Chart 4)**, demonstrates this potential: between 2021 and March 2025, they resolved over 27.5 crore cases, including 22.21 crore pre-litigation and 5.34 crore pending court cases.

The long wait for justice

The data for the charts were sourced from the Lok Sabha, the India Justice Report, and the National Judicial Data Grid

Chart 1: Number of pending cases across courts in crore, as per latest data

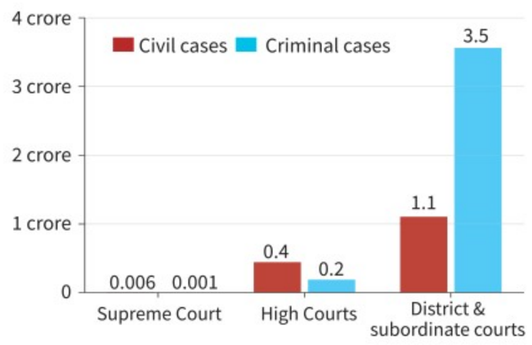


Chart 2: Time taken to resolve/dispose of cases across courts in civil and criminal cases, as per latest data

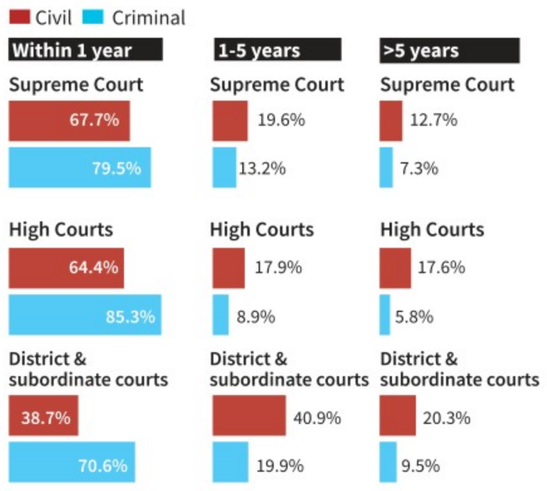


Chart 3: The % of vacant posts of judges across courts, as per latest data

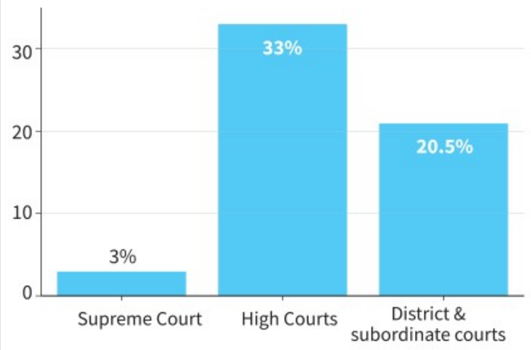
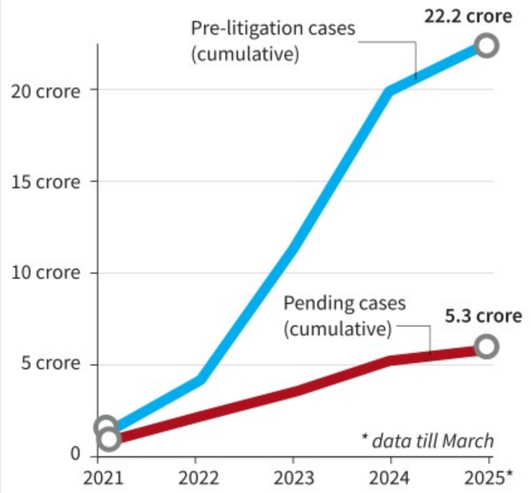


Chart 4: Cumulative number of cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during the last four years



Kartikey Singh is a lawyer based in New Delhi

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 29, 1975

Cargo booking by Railways to Sri Lanka likely

Tiruchi, July 28: Cargo booking by the Indian and Sri Lanka railways through Rameswaram and Talaimannar is likely to be resumed shortly. Preliminary discussions in this connection between officials of the Sri Lanka Railways and the Southern Railway were held here to-day.

Mr. V.T. Navaratne, General Manager, Mr. G.P.S. Weera Suriya, Operating Superintendent, and Mr. C. Nadarajan, Chief Commercial Superintendent of the Sri Lanka Railways, Mr. B. Natarajan, Chief Commercial Superintendent representing the General Manager of the Southern Railway and his colleagues participated in the discussions. The Emigration and Immigration Officers, Customs officials, Mr. Narayanaswamy of the Shipping Corporation of India, Mr. M.N. Balasubramanian, Divisional Superintendent, Southern Railway, Madurai Division also took part in the discussions.

Following the cyclone in 1965 which blew off the Danushkodi pier, goods booking between the Indian and Sri Lanka Railways was suspended. While the booking of passenger traffic at Talaimannar and Rameswaram continued the Railways have not been booking cargo bound for Sri Lanka which are being routed through ships.

At the conclusion of the discussions, Mr. Navaratne said that before 1965 Sri Lanka used to receive over 73,000 tonnes cargo every year by Railway booking. With just three hours for the streamer to cross the sea – a distance of 27 miles – there was very good booking from the southern districts of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka. The General Manager said, the pattern of cargo has now been completely changed and the Sri Lanka Railways was anxious to provide quick service for the movement of engineering and industrial goods from India to Sri Lanka through Railway booking.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 29, 1925

Dangerous drugs Bill

London, July 28: The House of Lords to-day passed the second reading of the Dangerous Drugs Bill, the main object of which is to ratify the decision of the International Opium Conference at Geneva, namely, that cocoa leaves and India hemp should be added to the list of dangerous drugs, the importation of which is prohibited by the Act of 1920.

From Page One

Focus on inclusion, not exclusion, SC tells EC

Senior advocates K.K. Venugopal and Rakesh Dwivedi appeared for the EC. The petitioners were represented by senior advocates, including Kapil Sibal and Gopal Sankaranarayanan. The court, which rose early, said it would announce on Tuesday an early date and a proper schedule for hearing the final arguments in the case.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan alerted the Bench about the proximity of the date of publication of the draft roll, August 1.

But Justice Kant was unperturbed, saying, "It was only a draft." Noting that the petitioners had not insisted on any interim relief of the stay of the publication or a freeze on the SIR exercise, the judge assured the petitioners that publication of the draft roll would not shrink the powers of the court to overturn any decision of the EC, provided the petitioners prove their case.

The senior lawyer said the publication of the draft roll would leave the 4.5 crore people excluded from it rudderless. The burden would be transferred onto them to prove their identity and citizenship, file objections, and even seek a review.

Justice Bagchi drew the counsel's attention to the EC's affidavit, which stated that voters who were in the existing 2025 electoral roll of Bihar would feature in the draft roll to be published on August 1, provided they submitted their enumeration forms, with or without documents.

"In substance, each elector included in the 2025 electoral roll shall form part of the draft roll merely on submission of the enumeration form," the EC affidavit stated.

The existing electoral roll was published in Bihar on January 7, 2015.

Three terrorists killed; Pahalgam links probed

Preliminary reports suggested a U.S.-made carbine, an AK-47, 17 rifle grenades, and other materials were also recovered from the spot.

Officials said they found a hideout where the terrorists would prepare food for themselves deep in the woods.

The Dachigam forest range has two flanks, with one flank extending toward Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and another connecting Ganderbal district.

"The operation is still continuing and is a prolonged one. Three bodies have been observed. I don't want to divulge any details at this time. Identification will take time," Vidhi Kumar Birdi, Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, said.

On the likely involvement of two slain terrorists in the Pahalgam attack, he said: "Parties [of security forces, including the J&K Police and the Central Reserve Police Force] are there. We will share details at an opportune time."

Officials said the process of identifying the deceased terrorists was under way. The Army described them as "hardcore terrorists" and termed the operation a "major success".

'Operation Sindoor will be restarted if needed'

During the special discussion, titled "India's strong, successful and decisive Operation Sindoor in response to the terror attack in Pahalgam," the Defence Minister said the military action against Pakistan had sent a clear message to supporters of terrorism that India was committed to defend its motherland. "Today, dossiers have been replaced by decisive action. Today's India thinks differently and acts differently. We believe that if the adversary uses terrorism as part of strategy and does not understand the language of peace, then standing firm and being decisive is the only option," Mr. Singh said.

Reason for halt in military action

Without specifically referring to U.S. President Donald Trump's claim about bringing to hostilities an end between India and Pakistan, the Defence Minister asserted that military action was paused as armed forces had achieved "overall politico-military objectives". Asserting it is "completely incorrect and baseless to say that the military action it was stopped because of pressure," Mr. Singh said Pakistan's Director-General of Military Operations had requested his Indian counterpart to end the strikes.

"The objective of Operation Sindoor was to destroy the terror nurseries raised by Pakistan over the years. The objective was to provide justice to the families who lost their loved ones in the Pahalgam terror attack," Mr. Singh informed. He also lashed out at the Opposition for asking "how many of our planes were being shot down" instead of asking how many enemy planes were destroyed by the Indian Air Force.

"In any examination, the result matters. If a child scores well in an exam, we should focus on their marks, not whether their pencil broke or their pen was lost during the test. Ultimately, the result matters, and the result is that our forces achieved all the objectives set during Operation Sindoor." Intervening briefly, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi asked "*Aapne roki kyun* [Why did you halt]". The question had ruling party members on their feet but Mr. Singh said he had already spoken about it. "Operation Sindoor is symbol of our strength... demonstrated that India will not remain silent if anyone harms its citizens," the Defence Minister said.

Why did HC judge submit to in-house inquiry, asks SC

The query came after senior advocate Sibal complained that the action taken by the top court, including release of visuals showing 'burnt currency', 'convicted' Justice Varma in the public eye

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> You could have raised these points immediately, without submitting to the committee's jurisdiction... why did you not?
>
> SC TO JUSTICE VARMA

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma's choice to submit to an in-house inquiry procedure into an allegation of "burnt cash" found on his official residential premises in Delhi despite finding the procedure to be "completely contrary to the Constitutional scheme".

A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and A.G. Masih asked whether he was at the time looking for a favourable outcome.

The query came after senior advocate Kapil Sibal complained that the action taken by the Supreme Court at the time, including release of sensitive visual and audio materials showing "burnt currency", "convicted" Justice Varma in the public eye.

"There was a public furore, media interactions named the judge, accusations were levelled against the judge and the findings of the inquiry committee found its way into the public domain. He was convicted in the public eye from Day One," Mr. Sibal argued.

Judges Inquiry Act

Mr. Sibal said the process of removal of a judge was covered under Article 124 (4) of the Constitution. The inquiry had to be done under the Judges Inquiry Act.

Senior counsel said the outing of sensitive material regarding a sitting High Court judge and public discussions on his conduct violated the bar under Article 121 of the Constitution.

"Article 121 restricts discussions even in Parliament on a sitting judge unless there is evidence of proven misconduct against him. The in-house inquiry procedure was devised to enhance the moral authority of the judiciary. The conduct of the in-house inquiry and its report, now in the public domain, hardly meet that objective," Mr. Sibal argued.

He challenged the inquiry committee's finding of misbehaviour against Justice Varma. "What is the behaviour of the judge to do with it. They have to prove the cash belonged to him. They never found that... ," Mr. Sibal argued.

The Counsel said the issue of 'removal' of the judge has taken on political overtones. "But removal is also a political procedure," Justice Datta observed. "Yes, inside the Parliament, not outside," Mr. Sibal responded.

"You could have raised these points immediately, without submitting to the committee's jurisdiction... why did you not?" Justice Datta asked.

Mr. Sibal contended that the decision of then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna in May to forward the committee report and recommendation for the removal of Justice Varma was "illegal".

"Why do you think sending it to the President, who is the appointing authority of the judge, illegal-?What is wrong in sending it to the Prime Minister-?Sending it to the President or the Prime Minister does not mean the Chief Justice is trying to impress or persuade the House to accept his point of view," Justice Datta responded.

The court listed the case for hearing on July 30.

SC questions apology by M.P. Minister for comment on Colonel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kunwar Vijay Shah

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the nature of the apology issued by Madhya Pradesh Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah for his remarks against Indian Army officer Colonel Sofiya Qureshi.

Justice Surya Kant, heading a Bench, said the Minister was "testing the court's patience".

"What do you mean by an apology like this? He made the statement on the first date itself. We are talking about a public apology. Where is it on record?" Justice Kant asked.

Senior advocate K. Parmeshwar, appearing for Mr. Shah, maintained the Minister had indeed issued a public apology, which was shared online. Senior counsel said he would place it on record before the court.

"What is an online apology? We are starting to have doubts about his intentions... You place the apology on record. We will have to see it," the Bench reacted.

The court further asked the special investigation team (SIT) constituted to probe the statements made by the Minister to submit its report by August 13.

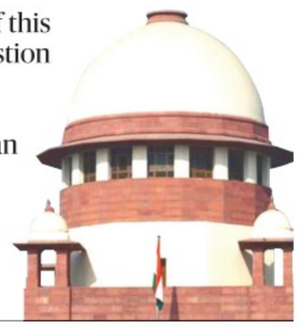
An SIT officer appeared in court with a sealed cover report, stating statements of 27 people examined by the probe team were currently under scrutiny.

The court however declined to examine a plea filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur seeking Mr. Shah's resignation, but said some of the allegations made in the writ petition about the past instances would be looked into by the three-member SIT.

Presidential Reference 'misleading', can't be used to alter prior ruling, T.N., Kerala tell SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> The decision of this court on a question of law is binding on all courts and authorities. Hence, the President can refer a question of law only when this court has not decided it
>
> STATE OF KERALA ARGUES IN SUPREME COURT



The States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala urged the Supreme Court on Monday to dismiss the Presidential Reference seeking clarity on whether judiciary can fix timelines for the President and the Governors to clear State Bills, saying it is a ruse to make the top court sit in appeal of its own authoritative pronouncement in the Tamil Nadu Governor case.

The Constitution, the both States said, did not allow the top court to sit in appeal of its own judgments nor can the President vest appellate jurisdiction to the court through a Presidential Reference. Tamil Nadu and Kerala termed the Reference as "misleading" replete with "suppressed facts".

Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate P. Wilson, said the Reference was an "appeal in disguise" and should be "returned as unanswered in whole".

Kerala, represented by senior advocate K.K. Venugopal and C.K. Sasi, said the President could only refer questions to the Supreme Court under its advisory jurisdiction of Article 143 of the Constitution if they had not been decided by the apex court.

Judicial precedents

Quoting judicial precedents, including the 1993 Reference in the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, the State said powers of the Governors and the President under Article 200 and 201 of the Constitution have been the subject of three separate authoritative judgments in the cases filed by the States of Telangana, Punjab and, finally, Tamil Nadu on April 8.

"The decision of this court on a question of law is binding on all courts and authorities. Hence, the President can refer a question of law only when this court has not decided it," Kerala submitted in the Supreme Court.

The State pointed out that the Tamil Nadu Governor case judgment authored by Justice J.B. Pardiwala has already addressed in detail the questions raised in the Presidential Reference in May.

"The Union of India has not filed any review or curative petition against the judgment delivered by the court in the Tamil Nadu case, and has thus accepted the judgment...The judgment, having not been assailed or set aside in any validly constituted proceedings, has attained finality," the State of Kerala reasoned.

SC stays High Court order on Bengal's new OBC list

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Calcutta High Court decision to freeze West Bengal government's new list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai also issued notice on the West Bengal petition.

"*Prima facie* the order is totally erroneous," Chief Justice Gavai remarked while offering to request the High Court Chief Justice to constitute a Special Bench to hear the case within a specified period. However, the parties urged the apex court itself to hear the case. The petition was listed after two weeks.

The court had, on a previous occasion, said that a nine-judge Bench in the Indira Sawhney case in 1992 had already held that backward classes in society could be identified through executive directions.

The High Court had ordered the stay on June 17 on the basis of a writ petition that a new list could be prepared only if the exercise was backed by legislation.

Religion as sole factor

In March, West Bengal had opted to withdraw from the Supreme Court its appeal against a High Court judgment of May 2024 which struck down a State policy to include several castes, largely Muslim communities, in the OBC list.

The High Court had concluded that religion was the "sole criterion for declaring these communities as OBC". It had found the "selection of 77 classes of Muslims as backwards an affront to the Muslim community as a whole".

At the time of the withdrawal of the appeal from the top court, Mr. Sibal had informed that the State Backward Classes Commission would prepare a fresh list after identifying socially and educationally backward communities.

The 2024 High Court judgment had impacted five lakh OBC certificates issued in the State since 2010.

Kamra, Andhare deny breach of privilege charges in their reply

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Kunal Kamra

Comedian Kunal Kamra and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sushma Andhare have denied the charges of breach of privilege against them in responses filed before the privileges committee of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

Both were issued notices after Mr. Kamra's parody song against the then Chief Minister, and now Deputy Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde, allegedly referred to him as 'gaddar' or traitor. They sent their written replies last week.

"How is 'gaddar' unparliamentary," Ms. Andhare asked in a 28-page document which consisted of a five-page reply and a 23-page attachment of the two lists of unparliamentary words as declared by the Maharashtra Legislature in 1984 and 1999. Mr. Kamra and Ms. Andhare have said that the action against them was mala fide in intent.

"Both have given their replies. As the chairperson of the privileges committee, I feel they have filed similar responses, which are not in consonance with the format we expect. We have sent their replies to the legal department for their opinion. Further action will be taken thereafter," Prasad Lad told *The Hindu*.

"Similar to a court's power to punish for criminal contempt, parliamentary privilege can only be exercised if the impugned actions... substantially interfere in functioning of the relevant organ of state," Mr. Kamra's one-page reply said.

On the usage of the word 'gaddar', he said it had been used against politicians in the past. Ms. Andhare said if she had not used any of the unparliamentary word against any member of the legislature, how could she be accused of using it.

NIA submits reports on Jiribam killings; HC gives a month to file chargesheet

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Moment of grief: People pay respects to those killed in ethnic clashes in Jiribam, Manipur, in November 2024. FILE PHOTO

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has submitted two reports in sealed covers to the Manipur High Court on the progress it has made in the investigation of the abduction and death of six women and children of the Meitei community in Jiribam, Manipur last November. The bodies of the victims were found in the Barak river.

Taking the reports on record, the court has asked the agency to file a chargesheet within a month.

A Bench of Chief Justice K. Somashekar and Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh had earlier in July said considerable time had passed since the incident, but a chargesheet had not been filed yet. The Bench then directed the NIA to submit a detailed probe report.

In the hearing on July 24, the NIA submitted the detailed progress reports related to the case in two sealed covers. The court's order said that considering the "peculiar facts and circumstances" of the case and submissions made by the NIA and the State's Advocate-General, the reports would remain in the custody of the Registrar for "safe custody" until further orders.

However, the court did not specify what circumstances it was referring to beyond noting the "concern" expressed by the Deputy Solicitor-General representing the NIA and the Advocate-General of the State.

The court, however, gave one month's time for the NIA to submit the chargesheet as required under Sections of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. "It is made clear that if there is no progress made, the matter would be viewed seriously," the court said.

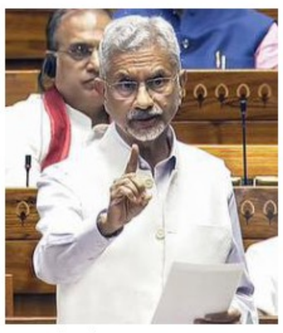
The court noted that the Deputy Solicitor-General had submitted that the NIA was "in the process of completion of the investigation and filing of charge sheet against the culprits/accused".

The court said it would take up the next hearing on August 25.

The court has been hearing a public interest litigation petition filed by office-bearers of the civil society organisation Uripok Apunba Lup, a conglomerate of dozens of local clubs in the Uripok area. They sought detailed progress reports, and speedy and fair investigation.

Ceasefire had no linkage with U.S. trade: Jaishankar

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI


S. Jaishankar

In a clear rebuttal of the repeated assertions by U.S. President Donald Trump that he stopped the India-Pakistan conflict, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday told the Lok Sabha that there was no phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Trump during the tense phase with Pakistan after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

Mr. Trump has said on multiple occasions that he extracted a ceasefire from India and Pakistan by threatening to cut off trade if they continued fighting.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor launched against terror bases in Pakistan in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack, he said the operation ensured that terrorists would no longer be treated as proxies. The operation created a "new normal" by conveying that cross-border attacks from Pakistan will draw an "appropriate response", he said.

"I want to make two things clear - one, at no stage in any conversation with the United States, was there any linkage with trade and what was going on. Secondly, there was no call between the Prime Minister and President Trump from the 22nd of April – when President Trump called up to convey his sympathy - and 17th of June when he called up the PM in Canada to explain why he could not meet him," said Mr. Jaishankar.

During the debate, the Opposition parties tried to corner the government on the repeated assertions by Mr. Trump. Their loud intervention prompted Home Minister Amit Shah to remark that they should hear out Mr. Jaishankar first. "India's External Affairs Minister who has taken the oath of office is making a statement here and they [Opposition] do not want to trust him but they have faith in some other country."

Mr. Jaishankar said the Operation Sindoor had brought in a "new normal" in the relations with Pakistan. All issues with Pakistan will be settled through bilateral means, he said and ruled out the role of a third party.

Cong. raises questions on security lapses which led to attack in J&K

Gogoi asks Centre to clarify claims made by Trump that he used trade to bring about truce between India and Pakistan, and asks about loss of jets during Operation Sindoor; Trinamool MP Kalyan says no country supported India during conflict

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Big queries: Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi speaking during a debate in the Lok Sabha on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday. SANSAD TV

Opposition parties, led by the Congress, on Monday questioned the Centre over "security lapses" which had led to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

The parties also attacked the government over the sudden "ceasefire" declaration and claims made by U.S. President Donald Trump on having brokered it.

The Congress's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, who opened the debate from Opposition ranks on the special discussion about "India's strong, successful and decisive Operation Sindoor in response to the terror attack in Pahalgam", said Union Home Minister Amit Shah should take responsibility for the security lapses. He asked the government to clarify claims made by U.S. President Donald Trump that he used trade to bring about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Kalyan Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress and Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT) questioned how many countries had stood with India during the conflict. Samajwadi Party MP Ramashankar Rajbhar said the country was so angry after the Pahalgam attack that it wanted "Operation Tandoor" and not "Operation Sindoor".

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) member Supriya Sule said Operation Sindoor was not complete. "It is not a success till you find those terrorists and arrest them. Till they are found we cannot celebrate." Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) urged the government not to turn national security and foreign policy into political issues.

'Taking back PoK'

Mr. Gogoi asked the government to clarify how many Indian jets were lost during the operation. The Centre had said its intention was not to occupy territory, but "if not today, then when will we take back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir?" he asked.

When the government had said Operation Sindoor was still "incomplete and Pakistan can do it again, then how is it a success", he questioned.

He said the Opposition wanted to know from Mr. Modi that if Pakistan was ready to kneel before India, "why did you stop and before whom did you surrender?" Mr. Gogoi went on to ask Defence Minister Rajnath Singh why he did not name China during his address in the Lok Sabha.

Congress leader Deepender Hooda said the entire country knew the greatness of the armed forces and the Opposition was ready to bring a resolution on this. "The defence forces did their work, but did the government in power do theirs? That is the question," he said.

'Wanted a strong reply'

Mr. Hooda said during Operation Sindoor, the entire Opposition was with the government. "But the Prime Minister was not part of the all-party meeting called by the government. He was shown to be busy," he said, adding the country wanted a strong reply to Pakistan similar to the one given by Indira Gandhi in 1971. "If Pakistan was on its knees then what was the need for ceasefire? The ceasefire was also declared by the U.S."

Mr. Banerjee asked how terrorists managed to infiltrate the border and launch an attack, and if there was an intelligence failure, why the Intelligence Bureau chief received a one-year extension? He also wanted to know how many of the 33 countries that India had reached out to had explicitly supported India.

Echoing his remarks, Mr. Sawant claimed no country stood with India during Operation Sindoor, including SAARC countries. "This was the time to take back PoK," he said.

Mr. Rajbhar said: "The country was so angry [over the Pahalgam attack] that by the third day, people did not want 'Operation Sindoor', but 'Operation Tandoor', that is to throw the terrorists into that tandoor. But instead, the operation happened 17 days later... Were the terrorists who carried out the Pahalgam attack among the 100 [killed during the operation]? That's the real question."

Congress speaking the language of Pakistan: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused the Congress, including its senior leader P. Chidambaram, of "speaking the language" of Pakistan on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor.

Speaking to presspersons, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan asked why Mr. Chidambaram was asking for proof of Pakistan's involvement in the attack. "They had sought a discussion on Operation Sindoor. When the government is ready for discussion, why are they running away from it?" he said.

Earlier, BJP leader Anurag Thakur said: "Whenever the topic of Pakistan and terrorism comes up, Pakistan itself doesn't defend Pakistan as much as 'Rahul-occupied Congress' does. Today, when the discussion on the attack is to take place in Parliament, the statement in favour of Pakistan by Chidambaram*ji* reflects Congress's pro-Pakistan mentality."

Responding to the charge, Mr. Chidambaram said: "Trolls are of different kinds and use different tools to spread misinformation. The worst kind is a troll who suppresses the full recorded interview, takes two sentences, mutes some words, and paints the speaker in a black colour!"

'Tharoor opted out of debate on Operation Sindoor'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress leadership reached out to the party's Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor on whether he would like to participate in the debate on Operation Sindoor but Mr. Tharoor declined and instead expressed a desire to speak on the Indian Ports Bill, 2025, party sources said on Monday.

Mr. Tharoor's position on Operation Sindoor and the Pahalgam terror attack has been at odds with his party's official position.

However, the sources cited above told *The Hindu* that Congress Deputy Leader in the House Gaurav Gogoi, on being instructed by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, spoke to the Thiruvananthapuram MP over his participation. The two leaders are said to have "amicably settled" the matter, the sources said.

There was no response from Mr. Tharoor on the assertion made by the party sources. When presspersons asked him about not speaking during the debate, the MP, in a lighter vein, claimed to have been on a *maun vrat* [vow of silence].

Listed speakers

Apart from Mr. Gogoi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Deepender Hooda, Praniti Shinde, Saptagiri Ulaka and B.S. Ola were listed as speakers. Ms. Vadra, however, did not speak and is likely to speak on Tuesday.

The other high-profile member, Manish Tewari, who was nominated by the Narendra Modi government to be part of a multi-party delegation that was sent for global outreach after Operation Sindoor, was also not part of the Congress' official list of speakers.

Rajya Sabha fails to function as protests over SIR in Bihar continue to rock Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned as Opposition MPs protested during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday. SANSAD TV/ANI

The Rajya Sabha failed to function on Monday as the Opposition MPs continued to protest over the issue of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise in Bihar. This is the sixth consecutive sitting when no significant business could be transacted in the Upper House of Parliament.

The Opposition had moved 26 notices under Rule 267 demanding discussion on various issues. Fourteen of these notices were on the SIR exercise. Deputy Chairman Harivansh, citing an earlier ruling from the Chair, declined the notices leading to an uproar. The Opposition MPs were on their feet at their seats, and raised slogans forcing Mr. Harivansh to adjourn the House till noon. At noon, similar scenes were repeated, and the House functioned for two minutes, adjourning till 2 p.m.

Raised slogans

When the Upper House reconvened at 2 p.m., the Chair tried to continue the debate on the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill 2025. However, Opposition MPs continued to raise slogans demanding a debate on the SIR issue, and that the exercise be stopped. Some MPs also trooped into the Well of the House. Amid the din, the Chair adjourned the House for the day.

Monday was sixth consecutive sitting when no significant business could be transacted in the RS

Earlier in the day, newly elected Rajya Sabha members I.S. Inbadurai and M. Dhanapal, both from the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, were administered oath.

Delay in Lok Sabha

The debate on Operation Sindoor and Pahalgam terror was delayed by two hours in the Lok Sabha as Opposition members wanted an assurance on the floor of the House that the government would agree to a discussion on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Without directly mentioning the SIR, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju at 2 p.m. told Lok Sabha that the government was open to discussion on any issue subject to rules and the Chair's permission. He said members of the ruling alliance and the Opposition had given notices on many issues and the Business Advisory Committee, chaired by Speaker Om Birla, will take a final decision.

"The debate on Operation Sindoor is important but SIR is also very important. We want an assurance on that," Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav told *The Hindu* after Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc members had protested over the SIR issue outside the main entrance to Parliament.

Chirag's remarks should not be seen as a step towards divorce from NDA: LJP(RV)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party will contest the Bihar elections with NDA, seat-sharing discussions are on, says Arun Bharti

Notwithstanding the critical remarks made by Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan against the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, the party will contest the coming Bihar Assembly election in an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party and Janata Dal(U), senior party leader and Lok Sabha member Arun Bharti said on Monday.

"Whenever a coalition government is formed, there is a common minimum programme that is agreed upon, which in our case includes zero tolerance towards corruption and crime and maintenance of law and order. These are the primary agreements between the alliance partners. Chirag*ji* is only trying to ensure that the government sticks to this agreement," Mr. Bharti said. By raising these issues, Mr. Bharti said, Mr. Paswan is only fulfilling his responsibility as a coalition partner.

Mr. Paswan on Saturday said, "law and order has completely collapsed in the State. The police have surrendered to criminals in Bihar. I regret having to support a government which is unable to prevent such crimes. The situation in Bihar has, indeed, become scary."

Mr. Bharti rejected the allegation by the JD(U) that such remarks weakened the alliance from within.

While reiterating Mr. Paswan's remarks, he said this should not be seen as a first step towards a possible divorce from the NDA.

"We will contest the election in the alliance. We are discussing the seat-sharing formula and we hope we will have a fruitful discussion," he said.

BJP MPs slam Muslim cleric's remarks on Dimple, hold protest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party MPs on Monday held a protest outside Parliament against the recent remarks of a cleric about Samajwadi Party's Lok Sabha member Dimple Yadav.

Maulana Sajid Rashidi, the cleric, had criticised Ms. Yadav, wife of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, for visiting a mosque near Parliament without covering her head.

Talking to presspersons about the protest by BJP MPs, Ms. Yadav said it would have been better if they had protested against the violence in Manipur, the videos of which were circulated on social media.

Earlier, the BJP had accused the Samajwadi Party of holding a political meeting at the mosque, a charge refuted by the party. On social media, BJP leaders had shared a photograph of Mr. Yadav, his wife, another party MP Mohibulla Nadvi, who is also Imam of the mosque, and others sitting in the mosque.

Responding to the allegation, Mr. Yadav had accused the BJP leaders of having a "negative mindset". "Faith is positive, it unites. The BJP gets upset with anything that unites. They want negativity, faith is for positive people. Faith unites, ensures brotherhood, it increases love and respect among people," he had said.

INBRIEF

Assam CM apprises Modi of progress in welfare schemes

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to apprise him of the progress made in various socio-economic indicators and welfare schemes in the State. He also met Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy. "Briefed him [the PM] on Assam's notable strides across socio-economic indicators and the near saturation of major welfare schemes", Mr. Sarma said on X. Mr. Modi is scheduled to visit Assam on September 8 to inaugurate celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary and dedicate the nation's first bio-ethanol plant in Golaghat. PTI

Govt. should engage in talks to resolve J&K issues: Mehbooba

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, speaking on the party's 26th foundation day on Monday, said the Centre should shun the path of war and begin talks to resolve the Kashmir issue. "The recent (India-Pakistan) war (after the Pahalgam attack) achieved nothing but destruction on this side and an unwanted arms race in the region. PDP founder Mufti Muhammad Sayeed always talked about friendship, peace and opposed war. India has to play the role of big brother in the region," Ms. Mufti said. She urged the Centre "to abandon its security-centric approach in J&K and embrace meaningful reconciliation and dialogue to address the region's long-standing issues".

Unclaimed deposits with banks stand at ₹67,003 crore

Unclaimed deposits with banks, including private lenders, stood at ₹67,003 crore at the end of June 2025, Parliament was informed on Monday. As of June 30, public sector banks were saddled with unclaimed deposits of ₹58,330.26 crore while private sector had ₹8,673.72 crore, as per the RBI. Of the public sector banks, the SBI is leading the pack with unclaimed deposits of ₹19,329.92 crore, followed by Punjab National Bank ₹6,910.67 crore and Canara Bank ₹6,278.14 crore, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a reply to the Lok Sabha. PTI

INBRIEF

Two killed, over 30 injured in stampede at temple in U.P.

Two persons were killed and more than 30 injured in a stampede at the Avsaaneshwar Mahadev temple in Barabanki city of Uttar Pradesh after a live wire, said to be damaged by monkeys, fell on a tin shed early on Monday morning, causing panic among devotees. "During the *jalabhishek* ritual, monkeys had damaged an electric wire, which caused current to flow through three tin sheds in the temple complex. The resulting panic led to a stampede in which two people lost their lives and more than two dozen were injured," Shashank Tripathi, District Magistrate, said. The government has ordered an inquiry. The District Magistrate has been directed to submit a report.

'Dog Babu' issued residence certificate amid row over SIR

Amid the confusion among people over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar that got over on Friday, a canine named 'Dog Babu' was issued a residence certificate in the Masaurhi area of Patna district from the State RTPS (Right to Public Service) portal. The residence certificate was required by the Election Commission (EC) among 11 certificates, as proof for inclusion in the electoral rolls during SIR of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar. Later, Patna District Magistrate Thiyagarajan S.M. said the certificate has been cancelled, and ordered a probe into it with a report sought within 24 hours.

NISAR satellite mounted on GSLV for launch tomorrow

All systems of the launch vehicle checked, says ISRO; the rocket will inject the 2,392-kg earth observation satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit to enable a wide range of applications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite on Wednesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation on Monday announced that the satellite had been mounted on a geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle (GSLV).

All systems of the rocket had been checked, it said.

After lifting off from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5.40 p.m. on Wednesday, the GSLV-F16 rocket will inject the satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit.

Priming for lift-off: The NASA-ISRO joint satellite NISAR being readied for launch in Sriharikota on Monday. ANI

Watching earth

The 2,392-kg satellite is will be the first satellite to observe earth with a dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar (SAR) – NASA's L-band and the ISRO's S-band – both using NASA's 12-metre unfurlable mesh reflector antenna, integrated with the ISRO's modified I3K satellite bus.

With a mission life of five years, the satellite will observe earth with a swathe of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using the SweepSAR technology for the first time.

"The satellite will scan the entire globe and provide all-weather, day-and-night data at 12-day intervals, and enable a wide range of applications. NISAR can detect even small changes on earth's surface, such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement, and vegetation dynamics. Further applications include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterisation, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources, and disaster response," the ISRO said.

The NISAR mission is broadly classified into launch, deployment, commissioning, and science phases.

In the first phase, the satellite will be launched by the GSLV-F16 launch vehicle, while in the next, a 12-metre reflector antenna will be deployed in orbit nine metres from the satellite by a complex multi-stage deployable boom.

This will be followed by the commissioning phase.

In-orbit checkout

"The first 90 days after launch will be dedicated to commissioning, or in-orbit checkout, the objective of which is to prepare the observatory for science operations. Commissioning is divided into sub-phases of initial checks and calibrations of mainframe elements followed by JPL engineering payload and instrument checkout," the ISRO said.

The final science operations phase begins at the end of commissioning, and extends till the end of NISAR's five-year mission life.

"During this phase, the science orbit will be maintained via regular manoeuvres, scheduled to avoid or minimise conflicts with science observations," the ISRO said.

India, Japan officials discuss PM's visit, bullet train project

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Takehiro Funakoshi

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan next month, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met with visiting Japanese Vice-Minister Takehiro Funakoshi in Delhi on Monday to discuss strengthening ties, upcoming projects and smoothing out supply chain issues.

Both sides are understood to have discussed the latest developments in the Shinkansen Bullet train project to connect Ahmedabad (Sabarmati) and Mumbai, including Japan's decision, reported by the *Japan Times* earlier this year, to gift India two of its latest E-10 Shinkansen trains, which will be simultaneously introduced in Japan and India.

According to the latest schedule revealed by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav last week, the Gujarat portion of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway will be completed by December 2027, and the entire project is now expected to be completed by December 2029.

Mr. Funakoshi also met with P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, to discuss Mr. Modi's travel plans.

"The dialogue was instrumental in reviewing progress in various dimensions of our ties, exploring new areas of collaboration and contributing to further deepening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Japan," said the Ministry of External Affairs in a statement, adding that Mr. Misri and Mr. Funakoshi discussed "political ties, defence and security, economic security, trade and investment, infrastructure cooperation, technology and people-to-people exchanges" during talks at Hyderabad House.

In addition, officials on both sides have been discussing problems with the shortage of critical minerals required for batteries and rare earth magnets for Battery Electric Vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers due to export restrictions from China.

(With inputs from Maitri Porecha)

Procedure to redress chemically contaminated sites gets legal teeth

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry has notified new rules under the Environment Protection Act that lays out a process to address sites that are chemically contaminated.

The Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025, give a legal structure to the process of contamination, which was missing until now. Contaminated sites, according to the Central Pollution Control Board, are those where hazardous and other waste had been dumped historically. Some of the sites were contaminated when there was no regulation on management of hazardous waste.

Contaminated sites are those where hazardous waste had been dumped historically. FILE PHOTO

In some instances, polluters have either shut their operations or the cost of remediation is beyond their capacity. Thus the sites remain a threat to the environment. These sites may include landfills, dumps, waste storage and treatment sites, spill sites, and chemical waste handling and storage sites. Remedial operation has commenced only in seven of the 103 such sites in the country.

A senior official in the Ministry told *The Hindu* that the latest rules – made public on Friday – were part of a process of "legally codifying" the process in place once contaminated sites were identified. Under these rules, the district administration would prepare half-yearly reports on "suspected contaminated sites".

A State Board, or a reference organisation, would examine these sites and provide a "preliminary assessment" within 90 days of being informed. Following these, it would have another three months to make a detailed survey and finalise if these sites were indeed "contaminated".

A "reference organisation" – basically a body of experts – would be tasked with specifying a remediation plan. The State Board would also have 90 days to identify the person(s) responsible for the contamination. Those deemed responsible would have to pay for the cost of remediation of the site, else the Centre and the State – under a prescribed arrangement – would arrange for the costs of clean-up. "Any criminal liability, if it is proved that such contamination caused loss of life or damage would be under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (2023)," the official told *The Hindu*.

Nuns to stay, serve in Gaza despite attacks, says Missionaries of Charity

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A day after two nuns of the India-headquartered Missionaries of Charity were seen in a viral video in close proximity of a deadly rocket attack in the Gaza Strip, Mother House in Kolkata on Monday reiterated its commitment to continue to serve in the conflict-hit enclave.

Three nuns of the Missionaries of Charity are in Gaza and will continue to stay there "as that is the life of the nuns of the order", a spokesperson from Mother House told *The Hindu*.

"The sisters are on the ground in Gaza and are currently serving the old and the children. They have been there from the beginning of the conflict helping the common people who are suffering because of the war. In fact, we have been there for a long time," the spokesperson said over phone, adding that the nuns of the order have been present in Gaza Strip for decades throughout which several Israel-Palestinian conflicts have taken place.

Devoted to duty: Nuns and children attend morning mass at the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City. AFP

The Missionaries of Charity, started by Mother Teresa, has served in multiple conflict zones in the world, including in Gaza where they began helping the affected people since February 26, 1973. The organisation started facing difficulties soon after the latest Israel-Palestinian conflict began on October 7, 2023.

On December 16, 2023, more than two months after the start of the military campaign by Israel against targets in Gaza, the Missionaries of Charity's convent located on the compound of the Holy Family Parish, the only Catholic church near Gaza City, was bombed. That incident was reported by Father Gabriel Romanelli of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, pastor of the Holy Family Parish.

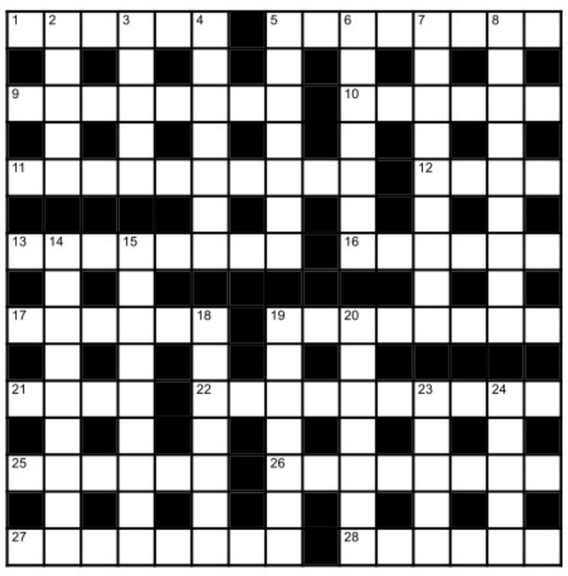
The video of Sunday's attack was also shared by Father Romanelli with the international media. Father Romanelli was injured in an attack on July 17 on the Holy Family Parish that was reportedly carried out by the Israeli Defence Forces. The Missionaries of Charity did not share the names of their nuns who are serving in Gaza "as the situation remains fragile" on the ground and the spokesperson said, "This is the life of the nuns of the Missionaries of Charity. We will continue to serve there despite the violence."

TH CROSSWORD + 14549

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Hurt by cat on the back to rodent (6)
5 Plant found in Milan, Goa accidentally (8)
9 Upset that world organisation's suspended (8)
10 Systems for class at Indian state school (6)
11 Builder's a criminal, plot occupied primarily near river (10)
12 Thug to stay after a break in the middle (4)
13 Arrangement of veins by native? No, it's new (8)
16 Cover can take ball by play-ends (6)
17 Drunk with spirit after bender by day (6)
19 Nothing, almost rubbish?! No, at the end America is remarkable (8)
21 Observe honour conferred on youth leader (4)
22 Itinerant guy avails oats primarily in erstwhile country (10)
25 Princess returns after 6 in city (6)
26 Say, a cohort on time has porridge, doesn't finish off with pressure (3,5)
27 Pipe shed used to make pesticide mixture (5,3)
28 Officer picked up by centre (6)

Down

2 A new information concealed by doctor on state of pregnancy (5)
3 Remote thoughts intrinsic for a composition (5)
4 Humanist, needing no introduction makes huge waves (7)
5 Unit of energy shows zero in electrified magnet (7)
6 Grits can almost create problem to the stomach (7)
7 Catalog on shape has 8 sides (9)
8 One reminder received by member; you hear it is unprepared (9)
14 Herbalists, right away danced in set (9)
15 Anyone can become angry and be a nuisance (9)
18 Ground is arid and loose at the end, cracking (3,4)
19 Play golf with current provided for light (7)
20 To live at mountains cycling is show (7)
23 Rare, I designed a drier (5)
24 Train in old city's express primarily (5)

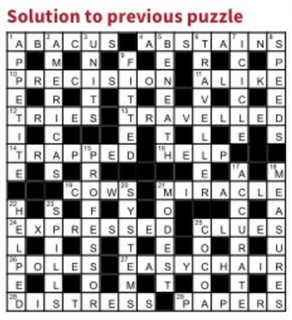
SUDOKU

		1	9			4		
8				5		1		
4	5			8	7			
				1	5			3
3			4	2				
			5	3			4	2
		6		4				5
		4			9	8		

No.SS6595 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	4	1	7	3	5	6	8	9
7	5	3	8	6	9	2	1	4
6	9	8	4	2	1	5	7	3
9	2	7	6	8	4	1	3	5
3	8	5	2	1	7	9	4	6
1	6	4	5	9	3	8	2	7
5	3	9	1	7	2	4	6	8
8	7	2	9	4	6	3	5	1
4	1	6	3	5	8	7	9	2

FAITH

Relevance of Naga Panchami

Snakes are revered, feared, fed and worshipped. Naga Panchami falls on the Suklapaksha Panchami of the Ashada month, and is observed across India. *The Mahabharata* narrates the curse that fell on King Parikshit due to a snake and the subsequent events, said Dr. Sudha Seshayyan.

Parikshit, Arjuna's grandson, was a just ruler. However, his one indiscretion sealed his fate. Tired from hunting, Parikshit entered the ashram of sage Sameeka and asked for water. The sage was in meditation and did not respond. Angered at this, Parikshit picked up a dead snake, put it around Sameeka's neck and left. This infuriated Shringi, Sameeka's son, who cursed Parikshit saying he would die within seven days, after being bitten by the snake Takshaka. Takshaka had his own reasons for killing Parikshit. When the Pandavas built Indraprasatha, they destroyed the Khandava vana, causing the death of countless snakes; Takshaka escaped but his family did not; therefore, he was looking forward to avenging their deaths.

Janamejaya, the son of Parikshit, was furious over the death of his father and decided to conduct a sarpa yagna. The mantras forced the snakes to the yagna (fire) and all perished. Takshaka sought refuge in the cot of Indra, assuming the mantras would not reach there. However, they resonated everywhere. Fearing the power of the mantras, the devas met Manasa, the queen of the serpents, and sought help. She sent her son Astika to the yagna, who, posing as a refugee, sought protection for him and his family. Janamejaya had to accede. Astika then discoursed on the need for a balance and for stopping endless feuds, and that day is celebrated as Nadivardhini Panchami.

INBRIEF

Nayara moves HC against MS over suspension of services

Nayara Energy has moved the Delhi High Court against Microsoft following the abrupt and unilateral suspension of critical services by the American multinational technology company. In a press statement, Nayara Energy – an Indo-Russian oil refining and marketing company – said Microsoft is currently restricting access to its "own data, proprietary tools, and products – despite these being acquired under fully paid-up licenses".

Starlink not threat to BSNL, other telcos: Pemmasani

Starlink and satellite internet services like it would barely make a dent in the revenues of telecom operators and the state-owned telco BSNL, Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani said on Monday. Mr. Pemmasani said "only around 2 million subscribers" can be connected to Starlink's networks, due to the paucity of bandwidth that the satellite internet constellation offers. He was speaking during a BSNL strategy meet.

IndusInd Bank Q1 PAT falls 68% on decline in loans

IndusInd Bank's Q1 net profit declined 68% to ₹684.25 crore from ₹2,152.16 crore in the year-earlier period as lending growth slowed. Loans declined 3.1% to ₹3,33,694 crore compared with the previous quarter. Deposits reduced 3% to ₹3,97,144 crore on a quarter-on-quarter basis. Due to decline in loans and deposits, net interest income reduced 14% YoY to ₹4,640 crore. Net interest margin fell 79 basis points to 3.46% in the reporting quarter as against the year-ago period.

'Individual and HUF taxpayers benefited most from exemptions'

Exemptions and deductions availed by corporate taxpayers resulted in ₹94,910 crore worth of revenue being foregone in 2019, which increased to ₹99,000 crore by 2023-24, according to data shared by Union MoS for Finance

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The government's tax exemptions and deductions are increasingly weighted towards individual taxpayers rather than companies, according to the latest data on the revenue the government has foregone due to such measures.

According to data shared on Monday by the Minister of State (MoS) for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary with the Lok Sabha in response to a question, the exemptions and deductions availed by individuals made up 60% of the total revenue foregone by the government in 2023-24.

The data shows the government gave up on total tax revenue worth ₹3.7 lakh crore in 2023-24 due to the deductions and exemptions it provided to corporate, non-corporate, individual, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), and customs taxpayers.

Data point: MoS for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary speaks in Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday. ANI

This is up from the foregone revenue of ₹3.4 lakh crore in 2019-20, ₹2.7 lakh crore in 2020-21, ₹3.1 lakh crore in 2021-22, and ₹3.3 lakh crore in 2022-23, the data showed.

However, the breakup of this data shows how the exemptions and deductions to individual and HUF taxpayers have become the most dominant portion of the revenue foregone by the government.

Exemptions and deductions availed by corporate taxpayers resulted in ₹94,910 crore worth of revenue being foregone in 2019, which increased to ₹99,000 crore by 2023-24. However, as a proportion of the total revenue foregone, corporate taxpayers accounted for 26.8% in 2023-24, down from 28% in 2019-20.

Individual and HUF taxpayers, on the other hand, saw the quantum of the exemptions and deductions they availed of increase from ₹1.55 lakh crore in 2019-20 to ₹2.21 lakh crore in 2023-24. As a proportion of total revenue foregone, this segment accounted for 46% in 2019, which grew to 60% by 2023-24.

This is in keeping with the trend in tax payments by individuals and corporates. Data from the Central Board of Direct Taxes shows individuals accounted for 94.5% of tax returns filed in 2023-24.

I-T collections

Income tax collections also made up 53% of total direct taxes in 2023-24, up from 47% in 2019-20. Corporate taxes, on the other hand, saw their share fall from 53% to 46.5% over the same period.

Exemptions and deductions given on customs duty accounted for a significantly smaller proportion over the years considered – from 23.5% in 2019-20 to 10% in 2023-24.

Industrial growth slows to 10-month low of 1.5% in June

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity slowed to a 10-month low of 1.5% in June 2025, down from 1.9% in May.

This slowdown was driven by the mining sector, which saw its worst performance in 58 months, and also by contractions in the electricity and primary goods sectors.

Official data on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) showed the index last witnessed worse growth numbers in August 2024. The mining and quarrying sector contracted 8.7% in June 2025, its worst performance since August 2020. The electricity sector contracted 2.6% in June 2025, a smaller contraction than in May 2025 (-4.7%), but a significantly worse performance than the 8.3% growth in June 2024. The manufacturing sector grew at a 5-month high of 3.9% in June 2025, up from 3.2% in May and 3.5% in June of last year.

Primary goods contracted 3% in June 2025, its worst performance in 56 months. Intermediate and infrastructure and construction goods grew 5.5% and 7.2%, respectively.

Layoff shock: 'TCS staff go job hunting'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) decision to lay off 12,000 staff is only the tip an iceberg of a tech bloodbath expected in the IT services industry in India and globally in coming quarters, say some observers.

Reliable industry sources said some TCS divisions saw a lot of internal churn in the last two months. As a result, there was some voluntary attrition in July plus involuntary attrition of 12,000. As a result, in the last 30 days, 1.51 lakh of the over-four-lakh staff have started actively looking for alternative job options on Naukri, alone.

TCS shares slid 1.76% to ₹3,079.05, on the BSE on Monday following the layoff decision.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,891	-0.70
US Dollar	86.70	-0.20
Gold	98,020	-0.50
Brent oil	69.83	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2522.30	-27.80
Adani Ports	1376.00	-20.30
Apollo Hosp	7356.50	-112.00
Asian Paints	2359.60	23.40
Axis Bank	1073.60	-12.50
Bajaj Auto	8089.50	14.00
Bajaj Finserv	1977.80	-8.00
Bajaj Finance	880.50	-33.25
Bharat Elec	389.25	-5.95
Bharti Airtel	1890.30	-47.60
Cipla	1572.00	39.50
Coal India	378.35	-2.45
Dr Reddys Lab	1287.40	9.50
Eicher Motors	5386.00	-47.00
Eternal Ltd.	307.30	-3.25
Grasim Ind	2727.20	18.60
HCL Tech	1466.10	-24.00
HDFC Bank	2008.50	3.90
HDFC Life	761.20	-1.15
Hero MotoCorp	4291.10	60.40
Hindalco	689.35	-4.10
Hind Unilever	2441.60	26.20
ICICI Bank	1488.40	11.30
IndusInd Bank	802.05	-21.65
Infosys	1516.00	0.30
ITC	409.90	0.50
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	307.35	-3.90
JSW Steel	1028.80	1.90
Kotak Bank	1966.60	-158.00
L&T	3422.20	-20.70
M&M	3209.80	-36.60
Maruti Suzuki	12340.00	-64.00
NestleIndia	2229.30	-45.30
NTPC	332.95	-0.25
ONGC	240.02	-0.27
PowerGrid Corp	291.90	-0.20
Reliance Ind	1387.60	-4.10
SBI Life	1850.50	18.40
State Bank	797.15	-9.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	633.45	17.60
Sun Pharma	1702.20	3.20
TataConsumerProduct	1059.90	5.50
Tata Motors	682.90	-4.50
Tata Steel	159.68	-1.75
TCS	3079.30	-56.50
Tech Mahindra	1450.60	-11.30
Titan	3393.00	-69.80
Trent Ltd.	4994.00	-49.00
UltraTech Cement	12240.00	-10.00
Wipro	250.05	-9.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.47	86.79
Euro	100.71	101.09
British Pound	116.04	116.47
Japanese Yen (100)	58.29	58.51
Chinese Yuan	12.05	12.10
Swiss Franc	107.89	108.29
Singapore Dollar	67.30	67.56
Canadian Dollar	63.00	63.23
Malaysian Ringitt	20.42	20.53
Australian Dollar	56.43	56.65

Source:Indian Bank

Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd
(A Government of Telangana Undertaking).

Request for Proposal (RFP)

RfP No. 02/CEO/RFP/TGIIC/2025-26, Dt: 28.07.2025

NICDIT Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City Limited (NICZISCL), invites RFQ cum RFP for Design, Construction,Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of Infrastructure Works at Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City under Hyderabad Nagpur Industrial Corridor (HNIC) "On EPC Basis".

The RfQ cum RfP document can be downloaded from www.tender.telangana.gov.in and www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in from Dt: 29-07-2025.
Last date for submission of Proposals: Dt: 07-10-2025, 15:00 Hrs (IST).

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
NICDIT Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City Limited
"Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-500004,
Telangana Ph: 23237625, Email: ceo-proj-iic@telangana.gov.in

DIPR R.O. No. : 426-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED

e-Procurement TENDER NOTICE

APTRANSCO invites bids online for the following work against Spec No. APT-e- 04/2025 for "Resuming the work of "Supply and Erection of 220/33kV GIS at Lingayapalem and connected 220KV XLPE Cable works in CRDA in Guntur District "on turnkey basis." Date & availability of tenders on e-procurement is **29.07.2025**. Further details can be seen in **http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in** from Phone: 9490153087, 9491053731.

DIPR 4293PP/CL, Dt: 28/07/2025 Sd/- Chief Engineer, Projects

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI

1. KMCRI/SUP(5)/Neuro Surgery/Tender-01/121/2025-26 Dated 25-07-2025
2. KMCRI/SUP(5)/Radiation Oncology/Tender-01/123/2025-26 Dated 28-07-2025

E-Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement)

The Director, Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute, Hubballi, invites e-tenders from Manufacturers / Authorised Agents / Authorised Distributors for supply of **1) Neuro Surgery, 2) Radiation Oncology Equipments** as per KTPP Act 1999 and 2000 through e-tender. The documents, processing fee etc. informations are available at **website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The Authorised Officer have rights to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- (Director)
Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute, Hubballi

APPOINTMENT

ICMR-NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION
INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Jamai Osmania Post, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500 007, Telangana State, India.

No. ICMR-NIN/Admn-Assistant/DR/2025/ Date: 29-07-2025

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad functioning under the aegis of Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI invites online applications from the eligible candidates for filling up of the post under Direct Recruitment as detailed under:

Sl.No	Name of the Post	Pay Level	Age limit	No. of Posts
1	Assistant	Level: 6 - Rs.35400-112400	Not exceeding 30 years	4 (UR)

For detailed Recruitment Notification, please visit websites **http://icmr.gov.in** and ICMR-NIN website **(www.nin.res.in).** Link for submitting the online registration/applications: **https://joinicmr.in** is activated from **25-07-2025 (11:00 hrs)** onwards and will be closed by **14-08-2025 (23:59 hrs).**

Sd/- DIRECTOR, ICMR-NIN

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912/895

TENDER NOTICE

C-DIT invites sealed tenders for the "supply of Table Top Label Counting and Rewinding Machine with missing lable sensor"

Last date: **05.08.2025, 3.00 PM**
For details visit www.cdit.org
28.07.2025 Registrar,C-DIT

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
(Indian Council of Medical Research)
Department of Health Research,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
R-127, Second Main Road, Ayapakkam, Chennai - 600 077.

ADDENDUM TO RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

No. ICMR-NIE/Admin.Recruit/2025 dated 28.02.2025

Advt. No. ICMR-NIE/Admn.Recruit/2025/ Date: 28.07.2025

Applications are invited for the following posts on direct recruitment basis.

S.No.	Name of the Post	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)	Classification	No of Post(s)
1.	LOWER DIVISION CLERK	Level-2 in Pay Matrix Rs.19,900 - 63,200	Group - C (Ministerial)	7 Posts
2.	UPPER DIVISION CLERK	Level-4 in Pay Matrix Rs.25,500 - 81,100	Group - C (Ministerial)	2 Posts
3.	ASSISTANT	Level-6 in Pay Matrix Rs.35,400 -1,12,400	Group - B (Ministerial)	1 Post

For Detailed Recruitment Notification, please visit websites: **www.icmr.gov.in** and **www.nie.gov.in.** Link for submitting online applications: **https://joinicmr.in** is live from 25.07.2025 onwards and will close on 14.08.2025 @ 23.59 hrs.

Director

Armed Forces Tribunal
(Principal Bench)
West Block-VIII. Sector-1,
R.K. Puram. New Delhi-110 066

Applications are invited for the post of Joint Registrar in Pay Matrix Level-12 on deputation basis for Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, Lucknow.
For further details, kindly visit web site **www.aftdelhi.nic.in**

(Sunil Kumar Sharma)
Deputy Registrar (A)

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Susil S Dungarwal
Chief Mall Mechanic
Beyond Squarefeet

Gururaja SJ
Senior Director
City Head – Office Leasing Advisory – Chennai
Head – Emerging markets South India

Moderator:
CA G Karthikeyan
Founder - Startup Academy
Former President - TiE Coimbatore

Venue: Taj Connemara, Chennai
Date & Time: Thursday, July 31, 2025 | 6:30 PM onwards

Entry by invitation only. Limited seats.

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newsth.live/GUNLCB2025
or scan the QR code

JERUSALEM

Israeli settlers attack Palestinian Christian village in the West Bank

AFP

Israeli settlers attacked the Palestinian Christian village of Taybeh in the occupied West Bank overnight, torching cars and spray-painting threatening graffiti, a witness and the Palestinian Authority said on Monday. The Palestinian Authority issued a statement blaming "Israeli colonial settlers" for the attack on Taybeh. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump says he wants Netanyahu to 'make sure they get food' in Gaza

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday expressed concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza. Mr. Trump said the U.S. and other nations are giving money and food to Gaza but that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has "got to sort of like run it." "I want him to make sure they get the food," he said. AP

KYIV

Russian attacks targeted western city, home to airfield, says Ukraine

AP

Russia fired hundreds of drones and seven missiles at Ukraine overnight, the main target of which was a city in western Ukraine home to a military airbase, Kyiv said on Monday. Media reports have suggested the Starokostiantyniv airfield could host advanced F-16 fighter jets transferred to Ukraine by Kyiv's allies. AFP

CARACAS

Maduro's party sweeps Venezuela mayoral vote as opposition boycotts

AFP

Venezuela's ruling party won the majority of mayoral seats on Sunday in elections boycotted by the main opposition. The ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela won 285 of 335 mayoralties, according to Mr. Maduro's own projections, which he celebrated with supporters early on Monday in Caracas's Bolivar Square. AFP

India, Pakistan would still be at war if not for my intervention, says Trump

The U.S. President repeated his claim that he used trade as leverage to get New Delhi and Islamabad to stop fighting in May this year, after terrorists opened fire and killed 26 civilians in Pahalgam; Trump also said he was 'disappointed' with Russian President Putin over the ongoing war in Ukraine

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India and Pakistan would still be warring with each other, if not for his intervention, U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday. He made the remarks before beginning talks with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer at Trump Turnberry golf course in Scotland. The President repeated his claim that he used trade as leverage to get New Delhi and Islamabad to stop fighting in May this year, after terrorists opened fire and killed 26 civilians in Pahalgam. New Delhi has consistently denied Mr. Trump's claims that he was instrumental in bringing about the May 10 ceasefire between the two countries.

"If I weren't around, you'd have, right now, six major wars going on. India would be fighting with Pakistan," Mr. Trump said, standing between Mr. Starmer and his wife, Victoria Starmer, whom the President was hosting at Turnberry, where he is on a private visit.

"You see what we just did yesterday with two nations that we're trading with," said Mr. Trump, referring to Cambodia and Thailand, with whom he said there would be no trade talks unless they agreed to a ceasefire.

U.S. President Donald Trump with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer at the Trump Turnberry golf course in Scotland on Monday. AP

During his remarks, Mr. Trump also referred to the wars between Serbia and Kosovo, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. "I think a very big one was India and Pakistan, because that's you're talking about two nuclear nations. That was a very big one," he said.

"And I use... not in all cases....but I use a combination of knowing them a little bit, or in some cases, knowing them a lot," Mr. Trump said, specifically pointing out that he knew the leaders of India and Pakistan very well. "I know them very well, and you know they're in the midst of a trade deal [i.e., trade discussions with Washington], and yet they're talking about nuclear weapons," he said.

"So I said, I'm not doing a trade deal with you guys. And they want the trade deal. They need it. I'm not doing a trade deal with you. If you're going to have war, and that's a war that spreads to other countries, you'll get nuclear dust," Mr. Trump said.

On the possibility of a ceasefire to the Russia-Ukraine war, Mr. Trump said he thought it had been "settled numerous times".

"And then President Putin goes out and starts launching rockets into some city, like Kyiv, and kills a lot of people in a nursing home or whatever. You have bodies lying all over the street," he said.

"I'm disappointed in President Putin. So we're going to have to look and I'm going to reduce that 50 days that I gave him to a lesser number," he said.

Israeli groups call Gaza war 'genocide'

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Rights groups B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights Israel said on Monday they had concluded the war in Gaza amounts to "genocide" against Palestinians, a first for Israeli NGOs.

Both organisations are frequent critics of Israeli government policies, but the language in their reports issued on Monday was their most stark yet.

"Nothing prepares you for the realisation that you are part of a society committing genocide. This is a deeply painful moment for us," B'Tselem executive director Yuli Novak told a news conference. "Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians."

Israel's war in Gaza for the past 21 months began in response to an unprecedented attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on October 7, 2023. The Israeli assault has left much of the Gaza Strip in ruins, and, according to the Hamas-run territory's Health Ministry, has killed at least 59,821 people, most of them civilians. UN agencies warn that residents face a growing threat of famine and malnutrition.

The report from B'Tselem argues that the war's objectives go further. It cites statements from senior politicians to illustrate that Israel "is taking coordinated action to intentionally destroy Palestinian society in the Gaza Strip".

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes killed at least 36 Palestinians in multiple locations across Gaza on Monday, local health officials said.

Thailand, Cambodia agree to ceasefire

Associated Press
PUTRAJAYA

Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to an "unconditional" ceasefire starting at midnight, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Monday, a significant breakthrough to resolve five days of deadly border clashes that have killed dozens and displaced tens of thousands of people.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai hailed the outcome of the meeting.

The fighting began on Thursday after a land mine explosion along the border wounded five Thai soldiers. Both sides blamed each other for starting the clashes, that have killed at least 35 people.

Mr. Hun Manet and Mr. Phumtham have agreed to an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire" with effect from midnight local time, Mr. Anwar said as he read out a joint statement.

Mr. Anwar, who hosted the talks as annual chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional bloc, said both sides have reached a common understanding to take steps to return to normalcy following what he called frank discussions. "This is a vital first step towards deescalation and the restoration of peace and security," Mr. Anwar said.

China offers subsidies to boost birth rate

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

There were just 9.54 mn births in China last year, half the number than in 2016

China's government will offer subsidies to parents to the tune of $500 per child under the age of three per year, Beijing's state media said on Monday, as the world's second most populous nation faces a looming demographic crisis.

The country's population has declined for three consecutive years, with United Nations demography models predicting it could fall from 1.4 billion today to 800 million by 2100.

The nationwide subsidies apply retroactively from January 1, Beijing's state broadcaster CCTV said, citing a decision by the ruling Communist Party and the State Council, China's cabinet. "This is a major nationwide policy aimed at improving public wellbeing," CCTV said.

"It provides direct cash subsidies to families across the country, helping to reduce the burden of raising children," it added.

There were just 9.54 million births in China last year, half the number than in 2016, the year it ended its one-child policy, which was in place for more than three decades. The population declined by 1.39 million last year.

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CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/10329/2025 Dated : 28.07.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T576/2025	Hand Held Echo Cardiography, Resectoscope 8 Fr with Accessories, Spinal Therapy Compression system, Ophthalmic operating Microscope with observance Scope, Camera with CCTV, Operating Microscope with Dual Binocular Observance port, ETO Sterilizer	06.08.2025 11.00 am.	16.08.2025 5.00 p.m.
2.	T577/2025	Next Generation Sequencing equipment, Automated DNA Extraction Device, Haemoglobin HPLC device for newborn screening, Isoelectric focusing for newborn screening, Haemoglobin HPLC variant system, Capillary Zone Electrophoresis, Sound Proof Room Type B	07.08.2025 11.00 am.	16.08.2025 5.00 p.m.
3.	T578/2025	Operating anterior segment microscope with Video recording and TV monitor, High speed Autoclave 300L, B Scan, Ventilator Portable, Immobilization shell-5 point, Automated field Analyzer (Perimeter), High speed Centrifuge, Blood Collection chair, Digital slide warmer	12.08.2025 11.00 am.	23.08.2025 5.00 p.m.
		OT Table Manual Hydraulic, Ultrasound Machine with Color Doppler, Ultrasound with color doppler portable Type D , Ultrasound machine with color doppler 3D/4D Model A, Operating Head Light with Camera, Video Laryngoscope Model B, Deep freezer (-20degree), Deep Freezer (-80 degree), Bed side locker, Horizontal Cylindrical autoclave - 230litre, Horizontal Rectangular autoclave -300litre, Point of care Ultrasound with Echo Probe, Streak Retinoscope, Schiotz Tonometer, Tonometer Non-contact, Autorefractokeratometer, Optical coherence Tomography Model B , Hematology Analyzer 5 Part Model B, Binocular Microscope LED Various Types, , Electrical Suction Apparatus, Muscle Stimulator Therapeutic Model, Reagent Refrigerator – Various Type	N.A.	14.08.2025 5.00 p.m.
4.	T579(R)/2025	Automated Pasteurizer-Indigenous, PCR Reagents & Kits, Fully Automated Serum Biochemistry Analyzer for Animal Husbandry, Automated CPR System Model B, FNAC Chair with Couch, Intra Oral Digital Radiographic System Type B	N.A.	06.08.2025 2.00 p.m.
		Image Intensifier Fluoroscopy / Radio diagnosis Unit , ELISA - Fully Automated, Shower Trolley, Microwave Oven, Flexible Naso-Pharygo Laryngoscope with Channel and Instruments, Carbon Monoxide Breath Analyzer, Bottle Warmer for Thawing Milk, Bottle Sealer with foil for Sealing Bottles, Orbital Atherectomy System, Micro Needling and Radio Frequency, Retrieval Set for DDLT, Temporal Bone Holder, RO Water 500LPH for Autoclaves, Procurement of Consumables for TB Centre, Dental Acrylizer, Exercise Table , MRI Compatible Ventilator	N.A.	16.08.2025 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

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A LOT TO ACHIEVE

I'm hoping this is just the start: Divya on winning World Cup

PTI

I need time to process it [victory]. It was fate getting the Grandmaster title this way because I didn't even have one norm [coming into the event]. It means a lot, but of course, there's a lot more to achieve. I'm hoping this is just the start — Divya Deshmukh, who embraced her mother in a heartfelt hug after the win.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Need to learn endgames: Divya reflects on her World Cup journey

FIDE

Divya Deshmukh believes her endgame skills need further polishing. "I definitely need to learn endgames. I'm pretty sure at some point I messed it up. I'm not sure how. It should have been an easy win. I think I should not allow g4. But I think maybe I should just go rook a3, rook f3, rook g3, and that should be a win," said the 19-year-old.

À LA DHONI

Divya can perform incredibly well under pressure: former coach

FIDE

Divya Deshmukh's former coach N. Srinath says she is abundantly talented, but more significantly, incredibly cool in crunch situations. He said her composure is comparable only to cricket great M.S. Dhoni. "And her strength is, I think, turning up in those big moments. Like how Dhoni used to win matches in the last over".

QUEEN'S GAMBIT

A celebration of Indian chess: Anand on Divya's triumph

FILE PHOTOS

Congratulations to Divya on winning the World Cup. Becoming GM and a spot in the candidates. Amazing battle of nerves. Humpy played a very good event and showed commendable fighting spirit. The great champion she is! It was a great celebration of Indian chess, particularly women's chess — Viswanathan Anand.

Divya — the girl who could become the queen

The 19-year-old pips her experienced opponent Humpy via the tiebreaker in an exciting final; earns Grandmaster title; heartbreak for the World No. 5 after an impressive campaign

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The little girl was dressed in a pink frock and a pinker overcoat. "Divya Deshmukh," she said when one asked her what her name was, on that November afternoon at the Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

The year was 2013. She had just won the National under-9 girls' chess championship, which was held as one of the side-events of the World championship match between Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen at Hyatt Regency.

How time flies!

Divya is now one of the most exciting young talents in international women's chess. The latest proof came on Monday, at Batumi in Georgia, where she became the first Indian woman to win the chess World Cup.

In an all-Indian final, she defeated the much more experienced, higher-rated Koneru Humpy. After both the classical games had been drawn, the title had to be decided in tiebreaker games, played with shorter time controls.

The first game was drawn in 81 moves. Divya had white pieces, and she ensured half-a-point through perpetual checks with her queen.

The second game, in which Divya had black pieces, was wilder, with both players making significant mistakes. On the 42nd move, an unwise pawn-push down the centre by Humpy had given the younger woman a clear advantage.

But Divya returned the compliment just a move later, going for a pawn exchange, instead of which she should have played her rook on the back rank. And now it looked the point in the second game too would be shared, in an equal rook-and-pawn ending.

On the 54th move, however, Humpy went for a pawn capture with her rook, and black got the advantage back But, Divya failed to capitalise yet again.

Fatal move

Humpy's 69th move, with her pawn on the king-side, proved fatal, though. This time, Divya, made no mistake.

When black's extra pawn reached the penultimate rank, threatening to turn into a queen, Humpy extended her hand, and conceded defeat.

It was a significant moment for Indian chess. Here was the undisputed queen congratulating the princess who could one day become the queen.

Divya's right hand went towards her face, and there would be tears of joy. She, however, forced a smile as FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich came up to her and congratulated her.

A little later, all her pent-up tears came out, as did her mother's. Namrata had sacrificed her career as a gynaecologist for the sake of her daughter's career.

It hasn't been easy for the family, with Divya not having a sponsor, and chess, contrary to popular notion, is an expensive sport, as you need to travel around the world and quality coaches do not come cheap. The prize money from the World Cup should come in handy: She has become richer by $50,000.

That isn't the only thing that should make her smile.

By winning the World Cup, she became India's 88th Grandmaster, and only the fourth woman from the country to do so after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali.

She, along with Humpy, also qualified for the Candidates tournament. This was very much a World Cup to remember for India's women.

Contrasting moods: Divya is overcome with emotion after her incredible win while Humpy ponders at what could have been. FIDE

A prodigy's progress: Divya with the Budapest Olympiad medal (2024), World junior trophy in Gandhinagar (2024) and National under-9 prize (2013) in Chennai. FILE PHOTOS: FIDE & K.V. SRINIVASAN

The Divya dossier

1 Becomes the first Indian woman to win the chess World Cup

2 Double gold medallist (team and individual) at the Budapest Olympiad in 2024

Second teenaged Indian girl, after Koneru Humpy (aged 15, 2002), to earn a GM title

3 Third winner of the World Cup after Alexandra Kosteniuk (2021) and Aleksandra Goryachkina (2023)

4 Fourth Indian woman to become a GM after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali

44 The 44th woman to get the GM title

88 The 19-year-old is now India's 88th GM

COMPILED BY C. SHYAM SUNDAR

A star is born

Heartiest congratulations to Divya Deshmukh who has become the first Indian woman to win the FIDE World Cup and, that too, at the very young age of 19

DROUPADI MURMU, President of India

A historic final featuring two outstanding Indian chess players! Proud of the young Divya Deshmukh on becoming the World Cup champion. Congratulations to her for this remarkable feat, which will inspire several youngsters

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Ecstasy for India! Congratulations to Divya Deshmukh on winning the World Cup and achieving the marvellous feat of becoming a Grandmaster. Your tenacity and mindfulness have truly earned you this crown

AMIT SHAH, Home Minister

Huge congrats to Divya Deshmukh for winning the World Cup and also going from no norms to the GM title in one big jump!! Indian chess is knocking it out of the park these days

HIKARU NAKAMURA, American GM

A star is born and a newly crowned Grandmaster! IM Divya Deshmukh defeated GM Koneru Humpy in the tiebreaks to win the World Cup! What a magnificent feat for this talented and mentally tough young lady!

SUSAN POLGAR, former women's World champion

Ever-improving Washington grabs the opportunity with both hands

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

Washington Sundar is a diligent learner. Not the one to express his emotions, he is always among the first to hit the nets. Once done with the session, he makes it a point to stand in one corner for a few moments and analyse his game. That has been the norm ever since landing in England.

He knew he would have to wait for his chance, and eventually when it came in the second Test at Edgbaston, Washington did not disappoint. Coming in at No. 8, he contributed with crucial 54 runs – 42 in the first innings and 12 in the second – in addition to the vital wicket of England skipper Ben Stokes as India registered a historic win. There were questions over him being selected over Kuldeep Yadav, but the team management wanted to play a spinner, who could add depth to batting. That role fitted Washington perfectly.

Though he claimed four wickets in the second innings at Lord's, questions resurfaced as he departed for a duck on the final morning with India chasing a target of 193. But Washington came to Old Trafford with a belief, and eventually went on to score his maiden Test century and help India save the Test, with an unbroken 203-run partnership with Ravindra Jadeja for the fifth wicket.

Having been in and out of the squad, since his debut in 2021, his batting position has been nothing less than a musical chair. Washington has batted 11 times at No. 8, followed by 6 at No. 7, thrice at No. 9, and once at No. 6.

But he has been unperturbed. On debut in Brisbane, the Tamil Nadu left-hander proved his mettle with a gritty 62 off 144 balls, laying the foundation for the team's famous win. And in his fourth Test, he scored a vital 96 not out against England in Ahmedabad.

Blessing in disguise

But an opportunity to bat up the order came only at Old Trafford. An injury to Rishabh Pant meant a No. 5 slot opened up for the 25-year-old, and he made the most of the opportunity. With Pant ruled out for the final Test, former India opener and Tamil Nadu stalwart W.V. Raman suggested on X that Washington should bat up the order.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir also admitted that Washington will only improve.

"Washington was in really good form. It's just that sometimes when you're playing seven or eight batters, it's difficult to accommodate someone. And we always knew that with Rishabh not being there at No. 5, it was our opportunity to put Washi at five, and try to give him that opportunity," Gambhir said.

In times like these where batting has become more aggressive, Washington remains a believer of biding time at the crease. That approach worked on Sunday as he handled Stokes' short-ball ploy with precision, before going for a few big hits. He was never in a hurry to reach the milestone.

"We always knew the kind of form he was in, with the way he was batting at the nets and even in the last couple of Tests. So, there's not an inch of surprise," Gambhir said, adding: "What he's done with the ball and the bat, the entire country should be proud of."

Someone who loves assessing the situation and seizing those moments, Washington would be proud of himself too.

Grinding it out: Washington survived the short-ball ploy to notch up his maiden Test ton. GETTY IMAGES

INBRIEF

Iniyan claims the Dole Trophy Masters title in France

GM Pa. Iniyan won the playoff match versus Polish GM Malek Jan to emerge the champion of the second Dole Trophy Masters chess tournament at Aix-En-Provence in France on Sunday. After nine rounds, Iniyan and Jan were tied for first place with 7.5 points each. The playoff match consisted of two rapid games. The first game ended in a draw, while Iniyan won the second with black pieces.

Prarthana-Hartono duo triumphs in Evansville

Second seeds Prarthana Thombare in partnership with the Netherlands' Arianne Hartono beat the American duo of Ayana Akli and Victoria Osuigwe 6-3, 6-3 in the final of the $100,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Evansville, USA. It was the 30th doubles title in the professional circuit for the 31-year-old Prarthana, and the third-in-a-row with Hartono.

Indian biker Harith finishes fifth at Baja Aragon 2025

India's Harith Noah, representing the Sherco TVS Rally factory team, finished overall fifth in the 450cc category of the FIM Bajas World Cup at Baja Aragon 2025 in Teruel, Spain, with a timing of 7:16:32.0s.

Tejaswin breaches 7800 points, improves own mark

Tejaswin Shankar broke his own National record in decathlon while finishing fourth at the Wieslaw Czapiewski Memorial in Poland on Sunday and also became the first Indian to score 7800 points in the gruelling 10 discipline event. Tejaswin, who amassed 7826 points in the World Athletics Combined Events Tour Gold-level meet, held the record of 7666, set at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games.

Leylah wins DC Open, de Minaur takes the men's title

The biggest tennis title of Leylah Fernandez's career arrived at the DC Open on Sunday after defeating Anna Kalinskaya 6-1, 6-2 in the final. The 22-year-old earned her fourth singles trophy and first at a WTA 500 event. The men's trophy was won by No. 7 seed Alex de Minaur, who earned his 10th ATP title by saving three championship points in a 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (3) victory over No. 12 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. de Minaur, a 26-year-old Australian, was the runner-up in Washington in 2018.

Osaka and coach Mouratoglou part ways

Naomi Osaka and coach Patrick Mouratoglou are done working together after less than a year, the four-time Grand Slam champion announced on Sunday. "It was such a great experience learning from you," she said in a social media post.

Toor takes gold, Damneet impresses on final day of the Indian Open

The shot putter clinches the title at a canter; the 25-year-old comes up with a personal best of 69.87m to seal the hammer throw crown

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

National record holder and two-time Asian Games champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor expectedly took the shot put gold on the second and final day of the Indian Open athletics in Sangrur on Monday.

Toor, one of the very few prominent names to turn up for the competition, managed a best throw of 19.51m in his fourth competition of the season.

Battling injuries

Toor, who has been consistently battling injuries, is yet to cross 20m this season, his best being 19.74m at the National Games.

Damneet. RF MEDIA

In fact, he has not breached the mark since the 2024 Federation Cup in May, but was still good enough for the rest of the field.

Also impressive was the 25-year-old Damneet Singh, winning the hammer throw with a personal best of 69.87m - just shy of the 2016 National record of 70.73m by Neeraj Kumar.

Damneet, a silver medallist at the 2017 World under-18 championships and 2018 Asian under-20 championships, improved on his own previous best of 68.30m at the Federation Cup earlier this year.

Reigning supreme

Mohd. Lazan V.K. also set a new personal best of 14.08 seconds to win the 110m hurdles.

Among the women, JSW trainee Pranjali Patil was the only one to dip under 14 seconds to win the 100m hurdles in 13.66s while Niharika Vashisht of Punjab took the triple jump gold with 13.17m.

Asian Games bronze medallist Priti Lamba took the 3000m steeplechase gold in 10:05.60.

The results (day two, winners only):

Men: 800m: Vinod Kumar Banot (Tel, 1:50.69); **110mH:** Mohd. Lazan VK (Ker, 14.08s); **3000 SC:** Sharukh Khan (UP, 8:46.21); **Triple jump:** Karthik Unnikrishnan (Air Force, 16.11m); **Hammer throw:** Damneet Singh (Rel, 69.87m); **Shot put:** Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun, 19.51m).

Women: 800m: Priscilla Daniel (NCOE, 2:08.77); **110mH:** Pranjali Patil (JSW, 13.66s); **10,000m:** Soniya (Utk, 37:47.51); **3000 SC:** Priti Lamba (NCOE, 10:05.60); **Triple jump:** Niharika Vashisht (Pun, 13.17m); **Hammer throw:** Manpreet Kaur (CISF, 59.79m); **Shot put:** Vidhi (UP, 15.38m).

Stellar show: Toor managed a best of 19.51m in his fourth competition of the season. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Nikhat 'has the hunger to win medals' at the Worlds

BOXING

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Having made it to the Indian team for the World Boxing Championships, Nikhat Zareen believes that she heads to Liverpool, England, with a renewed sense of belief in her ability to bag yet another medal on the global stage.

"I'm looking forward to being back on the international scene after a long time. Everyone wants me to perform well there, win a medal and make the country proud. However, more than them, I want to bring back that old Nikhat Zareen who used to win medals at the World Championship. I want to bring back that old Nikhat who has that hunger to win medals at the Worlds," she told *The Hindu*.

Nikhat will compete in her preferred 51kg category at the inaugural edition of the event, which is being conducted by World Boxing, the newly formed international governing body for the sport.

Back in the mix: Nikhat returns to the Indian team for the first time since the 2024 Paris Olympics. FILE PHOTO

The 28-year-old returns to the Indian national setup for the first time since the 2024 Paris Olympics after an impressive show at the Elite women's boxing tournament held here earlier this month. She, however, pulled out of the final citing injury.

Self-belief

A two-time gold medallist at the World Championships (Istanbul 2022 and New Delhi 2023), Nikhat reiterated that she was capable of putting bad form behind her and bringing glory to India once again.

"Sometimes it [defeat] happens. It was not in my destiny, maybe. I don't want to underestimate myself or say that I'm not good enough to win an Olympic medal. I will keep pushing myself no matter what."

"Not everyone can win a World Championship gold medal, not just once, but twice. I'm still that Nikhat Zareen who has the hunger to achieve and make the country proud.

"I'm happy that I'm finally back in the national team, and the focus is now on just winning the medal," she added.

Ashoka rules in the upper division of the Anab E Shahi Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward Ashoka, ridden by Mukesh Kumar, won the upper division of the Anab E Shahi Plate, in a thrilling finish from Lashka, the main event of Monday's (July 28) races here. The winner is owned by M/s. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni, Rama Seshu Eyunni, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Trainer K.S.V. Prasad Raju and Jockey Suraj Narredu scored a treble each.

Prasad Raju saddles 1000th winner

Veteran trainer Prasad Raju also etched his name in the record books by joining the prestigious 1000 winners club, when he saddled Sangreal in the Bakhtawar Plate (Div. I). Prasad Raju, who saddled his first winner, Golden Lad, in 1995, has built a reputation as one of the most consistent professionals in Indian racing.

1. KOTHAGUDEM PLATE (1,200M): DIVINE SECRET (B.R. Kumar) 1, State Man (Mukesh K) 2, Tootsie Darling (Trevor) 3 and Equine Power (P. Sai K) 4. 4-3/4, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m 13.35s. 4-3/4, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m, 13.35s. ₹14 (w), 10, 16 and 15 (p). SHP: 80, THP: 36, SHW: 10 and 86, FP: 110, Q: 111, Tanala: 430. Favourite: Divine Secret. Owners: M/s. Mukteshwar Racing LLP & C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

NOTE: *Emerald Touch (S. Shareef up) jumped out awkwardly and dislodged Shareef who escaped unhurt.*

2. P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,400M): MISS SMILEY ANGEL (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Diablo (P. Sai K) 2, Clara (Kuldeep Jr.) 3 and Clefairy (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 1, 5-3/4 and 4-3/4. 1m, 26.06s. ₹25 (w), 11, 11 and 10 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 31, SHW: 14 and 11, FP: 59, Q: 30, Tanala: 84. Favourite: Diablo. Owner: Mr. V. Narendar Reddy. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

3. HYDERABAD PLATE (1,200M): BERRETTINI (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Reigning Beauty (Afroz K) 2, Proud Mary (Gaurav) 3 and Maverick (Santosh Raj) 4. 3/4, 2 and 3-1/2. 1m, 14.18s. ₹13 (w), 11 and 22 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 41, SHW: 10 and 37, FP: 47, Q: 45, Tanala: 76. Favourite: Berrettini. Owners: Mr. Arun Alagappan rep. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP & Mr. Chandrakanth Kankaria. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

4. ANAB E SHAHI PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400M): STAR OF NIGHT (Ajay Kumar) 1, High Command (Kuldeep Jr.) 2, Siddharth (Trevor) 3 and Black Onyx (Mukesh K) 4. 3/4, 3-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 25.91s. ₹27 (w), 13, 17 and 10 (p). SHP: 55, THP: 37, SHW: 19 and 32, FP: 128, Q: 86, Tanala: 513. Favourite: One N Only. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): CLASSY DAME (Abhay Singh) 1, Fashion Icon (G. Naresh) 2, Federer (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Top In Class (Mukesh K) 4. 1/2, 2 and Short Head. 1m, 15.05s. ₹159 (w), 27, 17 and 22 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 54, SHW: 828 and 23, FP: 1,098, Q: 764, Tanala: 36,869. Favourite: Battle On. Owners: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

6. P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,400M): CHERIE CHEVALIER (Suraj Narredu) 1, Newfound Glory (Ajay K) 2, Krystallos (Ashad Asbar) 3 and True Icon (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 12, 3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 25.70s. ₹14 (w), 10, 30 and 10 (p). SHP: 53, THP: 44, SHW: 13 and 42, FP: 99, Q: 111, Tanala: 191. Favourite: Cherie Chevalier. Owners: Mrs. Smita Bajoria, M/s. Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Bollineni Krishnaiah, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Teegala Sumant Reddy & Pochana Arjun Reddy. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

7. ANAB E SHAHI PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400M): ASHOKA (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Lashka (Trevor) 2, N R I Superpower (Varun) 3 and Silver Act (B. Nikhil) 4. Neck, 2 and 6. 1m, 26.05s. ₹43 (w), 15, 12 and 16 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 43, SHW: 20 and 14, FP: 121, Q: 40, Tanala: 302. Favourite: Lashka. Owners: M/s. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni, Rama Seshu Eyunni, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Trainer: D. Netto.

8. FALAKNUMA CUP (1,600M): RACING RULER (Suraj Narredu) 1, Peppi (Ashad Asbar) 2, Perfect Light (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Take A Breath (H.M. Akshay) 4. 15-1/2, 7 and 3-3/4. 1m, 40.90s. ₹12 (w), 11, 12 and 17 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 52, SHW: 13 and 15, FP: 38, Q: 37, Tanala: 136. Favourite: Racing Ruler. Owners: M/s. Teja Gollapudi, Bollineni Krishnaiah, Ashok Ranpise, Seshadri Reddy Ponacha, Mukund Kakani, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Teegala Sumant Reddy & Harinath Reddy Teegala. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

9. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): SANGREAL (Suraj Narredu) 1, Eminency (Nakhat) 2, Blue Pantheress (Sonu K) 3 and Inderdhanush (Md. Ismail) 4. Not run: Sucker Punch. 6-1/4, 2-1/4 and Neck. 1m, 14.40s. ₹17 (w), 12, 20 and 48 (p). SHP: 50, THP: 80, SHW: 18 and 23, FP: 115, Q: 92, Tanala: 2,448. Favourite: Sangreal. Owners: M/s. Sanjay R. Goyani & S. Prasad Raju. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹2,583 (56 tkts.) & 30%: 65 (948 tkts.), (ii) 70%: 3,143 (177 tkts.) & 30%: 701 (340 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2,253 (71 tkts.), (ii) 139 (932 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 152 (191 tkts.), (ii) 806 (23 tkts.), (iii) 108 (340 tkts.).

Majcen's late winner takes DHFC past Mohammedan Sporting

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Luka Majcen found the winner in the last minute of the added time to help Diamond Harbour FC (DHFC) beat Mohammedan Sporting 2-1 and make a memorable debut in the 134th Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Monday.

Mohammedan led in the opening half of the Group-B league match with Adison Singh's goal before DHFC made a strong comeback in the second to turn the tables. Sairuatkima found the equaliser in the 51st minute before Slovenian forward Majcen produced the late winner.

Good fight

Mohammedan decided to keep faith in its domestic recruits and put up a good fight against DHFC, which is rapidly emerging as a big name from the city.

Mohammedan took the lead off a counter-attack in the 36th minute when Ashley Koli set up Adison open in the DHFC box with a nice through pass and the latter fired a rasping grounder that beat goalkeeper Mirshad.

Pure joy: Majcen's injury-time strike secured three points for DHFC. DEBASISH BHADURI

DHFC regrouped well after the break and scored the equaliser off a corner-kick, which was nodded home by Sairuatkima.

Just when the match appeared to be headed for a draw, Majcen found the mark to secure three points for DHFC.

The result:

Group-B: Mohammedan Sporting 1 (Adison Singh 36) lost to Diamond Harbour FC 2 (Sairuatkima 51, Luka Majcen 90+9).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Deeksha scores hundred

C.D. Deeksha's 111 helped Cambridge CC defeat South End SC by 147 runs in the KSCA women's league.

The scores:

Cambridge CC 246/1 in 27 overs (Sarah Gabbur 54 n.o., C.D. Deeksha 111, Mansi Pundeer 45 n.o.) bt South End SC 99/6 in 27 overs (Nynisha 40) (Overs reduced due to wet outfield).

Friends Union (1) 168/7 in 27 overs (S. Shubha 67, Preethi Singh 3/24) bt Herons CC 104 in 24.3 overs. (Overs reduced due to wet outfield)

City Gymkhana 141/2 in 20 overs (Ramesh Rathod 43, Lakshmi Lakkond 52 n.o.) bt Wilson Garden CC (W) 87/5 in 20 overs (Shelina Laxmidas 33 n.o.). (Overs reduced due to wet outfield).

Sir Syed Cricketers 148/5 in 25 overs (Avani Attri 45, Prachi Choudhary 37) bt Visweswarapuram (1) 125/3 in 25 overs (Diya Shetty 50) (Overs reduced due to wet outfield).

Palar SC (W) 205/5 in 27 overs (Prathyoosha Kumar 86, Kuppa Kashvi 36, B.G. Tejashwini 45 n.o.) bt Jawans CC 172/6 in 27 overs (Yashika Gowda 70, M. Stuthi 49, B.G. Tejashwini 4/28) (Overs reduced due to wet outfield).

Bangalore Occasionals 42 in 10.4 overs (Maria Francica 3/21, Reethu 3/2) lost to Swastic Union (1) 45 for no loss in 5.4 overs.

Vijaya CC 141/5 in 29 overs (Shreya Pote 45, Sahana Pawar 3/27) lost to Swastic Union (2) 142/3 in 24.4 overs (P. Saloni 81 n.o., Zoya Imtiaz Khazi 43) (Overs reduced due to wet outfield).

Rajajinagar Cricketers 190/3 in 28 overs (Bhavika Reddy 51, Lavanya Chalana 85 n.o.) bt Century Cricketers 150/8 in 28 overs (Advika 82) (Overs reduced due to wet outfield).

Pass FC posts big win

Pass FC thrashed Pink Panther FC 9-2 in the KSFA Karnataka women's football league.

The results:

Kickstart FC 4 (K.U. Spoorthi 9, B. Mariyammal 13, 45, Kajol 45) bt United FC Kodagu 0.

Pass FC 9 (Saloni 22, 42, Ambrita Sharma 32, 34, 54, 55, 71, K. Ashika 63, Jyoti 88) bt Pink Panther 2 (Smeeta Sundas 55, 57).

Roots FC 2 (Payel Paul 25, Babita Devi 35) bt BFC 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.

Tennis: ATP Masters, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

SLI promises to trigger innovation

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The inaugural Shooting League of India (SLI) could pave the way for innovation, making the competition crisp, capturing the emotion and drama of the athletes, and making it attractive for the fans who enjoy watching sports.

The president of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), Luciano Rossi, and the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), Kalikesh Singh Deo, promised to help the game evolve in a healthy, ethical, and interesting way as they addressed the media online on Monday.

"For the first edition of the league, we work together with India. It will be a great success," assured Rossi, from his home in Italy. "We are in an advanced stage of negotiations with the sponsors, broadcasters. We expect to finalise and make the announcements by the end of September or early October," said Kalikesh.